

Featuring
THE

BLACK HOOD

TOP-NOTCH

NO. 24 FEB.

comics 10¢

BLACK HOOD SMASHES MURDER RING

WEATHER
1 to 8 South West
Sun 4 to 10

FINALE

VOL. 21 NO. 54

HAS LONG POLICE RECORD 'SUPER WAGON' TRIED OUT

Arraigned as a Fugitive He Is Held Without Bail for a Hearing Tomorrow

New Type Army Equipment Test in New York

SHOT BY POLICE

ARE JAILED HERE IN HOTEL HOLD-UPS

Lyman S. Hess, 35, of 125 West 125th St., was arrested late Friday night at his home, 915 West Avenue, by Lieutenant James City and Detective Louis Decker, the staff of Attorney General John J. Bennett Jr. After passing the night in Police Headquarters, Hess, a man of slight build with iron-gray hair, was arraigned before Magistrate Charles Berger before 11:30 p.m. for a charge of kidnaping. The detective said Hess was indicted for kidnaping by the jury of Richmond County, N.Y., last July 18. The indictment accused Hess of inducing Mrs. Florence W. Mahon of Portsmouth, N.H., in March, 1941, to give him \$49,000 in rayon stock and \$27,460 in cash as his misrepresentation that he would obtain a better investment for her. Hess disappeared from Portsmouth soon after that, but the police records show he was arrested

WITNESSES... New Type Army Equipment... Test in New York... The new type army equipment was finally picked up by the police while in the guard house. While in the guard house, the equipment was finally picked up by the police.



Fleeing Group Still Being Hunted

Believed to Be Ringleader in Series of Such Crimes

Police are searching for a group of men who fled from a police station last night. The group is believed to be the ringleader in a series of such crimes.

Two men, one of whom is believed to be the leader of a ring of hotel hold-ups, were held by police in a hotel in New York City. The men were arrested Friday night by Detectives John Bradwick and Fred Stepat of the main office squad after an automobile chase through Columbus Circle, during which the prisoners' car knocked down and slightly injured Marie Antonelli, 23, of 129 West 125th Street. Bird surrendered on the spot and Phillips was arrested several hours later as he entered his name. A third man riding in the car escaped, but his identity is known, according to police, and his arrest is imminent.

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ROY, THE SUPER-LOY, young hero of sensational case.



WIZARD proves an invaluable aid to man of mystery.

Union Dept. The street car who were admitted to the union yesterday on a check-off of union dues. That they had a major transportation section this objection today. Mahon entered the conference. Mr. Mahon, who has been president of the union for five years and who, as a member of A. F. of L.'s Executive Council, is one of the few surviving

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Secretary Hall issued no statement. He exacted the press conference scheduled for today, removing any opportunity for reporters to discuss this visit with him.

Possible Subjects of Talk WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (AP)—Secretary of State Hull described today's conference with the Japanese Ambassador as a general exchange of views, but there was some speculation that it might have been connected with reports in London that Prime Minister Churchill had assured President



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

A letter to readers of TOP NOTCH COMICS

We are about to take an important step—so important, that we have decided to bring the matter to your attention in this unusual way. We are going to run some true fact stories in the February issue of BLUE RIBBON COMICS, one of your favorite magazines. This is a *BRAND NEW* idea in comics. We say *BRAND NEW* deliberately—because the policy of mixing fact with fiction in just the way we intend to mix them has never before been attempted in a comic book.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION! This is a proverb you are all familiar with—but which may have lost its meaning just because it *has* become so familiar. We won't argue with this proverb—although it is our own private opinion that there is not as great a difference between the two as you might think. After all, the only source a fiction writer can draw upon for his stories is from real life experiences.

But whether *truth is more important* than fiction is something else. We firmly believe that one is as important as the other. After all, if truth opens the mind to things that have happened and are happening, fiction trains it to appreciate these facts and to recognize their dramatic importance. This is not a new idea of ours. After all, aren't the Arabian Nights and Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales still the most widely read children's books in the world? And very highly recommended by the most outstanding educator, too, we might add.

For those of our readers who are in the higher grades in school, you know that the fiction books you are asked to read in your English classes are regarded as important as the history books you study in your History classes.

THIS IS WHY BLUE RIBBON COMICS ARE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU BOTH FACT AND FICTION STORIES. Both will be written the same high standards—the same policy of giving you the best and the most of it!

Truth can be dry as dust! We know this. But so can fiction. We promise you that when you read the true stories beginning in the February issue of BLUE RIBBON COMICS, you will get just as many thrills, just as much red blooded reading pleasure in the life history of Galileo, the world's most famous astronomer, or Dr. Walter Reed's heroic fight against that deadly disease, **YELLOW JACK**, as you have in any fiction story you have read.

Remember, BLUE RIBBON COMICS still has those famous fiction stories which have been your good friends—and whose friends you have been—for so long a time: Captain Flag; Rang-A-Tang, the original wonder dog; Mr. Justice; Corporal Collins; and others.

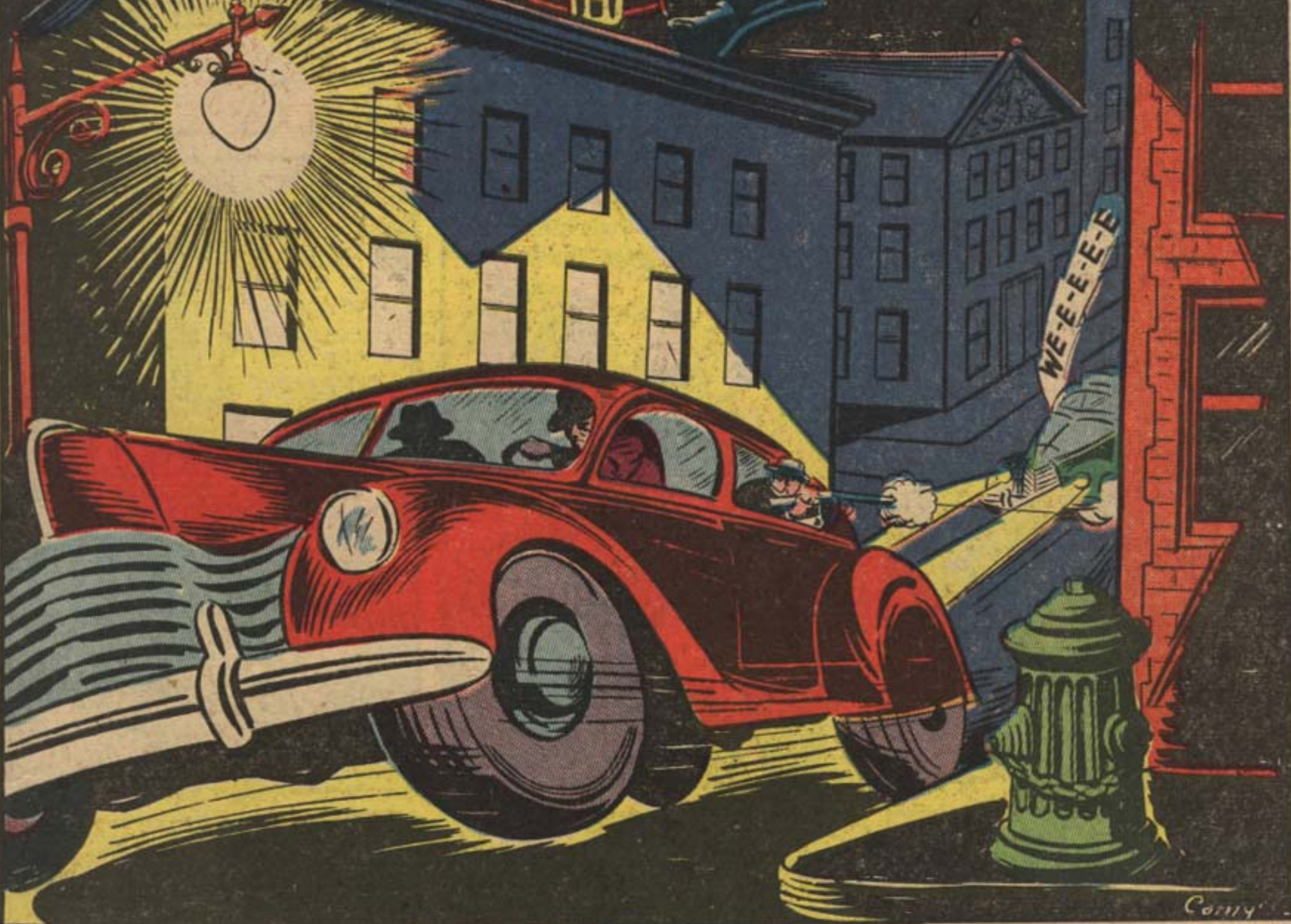
So won't you please write us and let us know how you like this brand new brainstorm of ours. **WRITE IMMEDIATELY!** The success of this experiment lies entirely with you! If you like it, we like it twice as much. Thanks a million.

Sincerely yours,

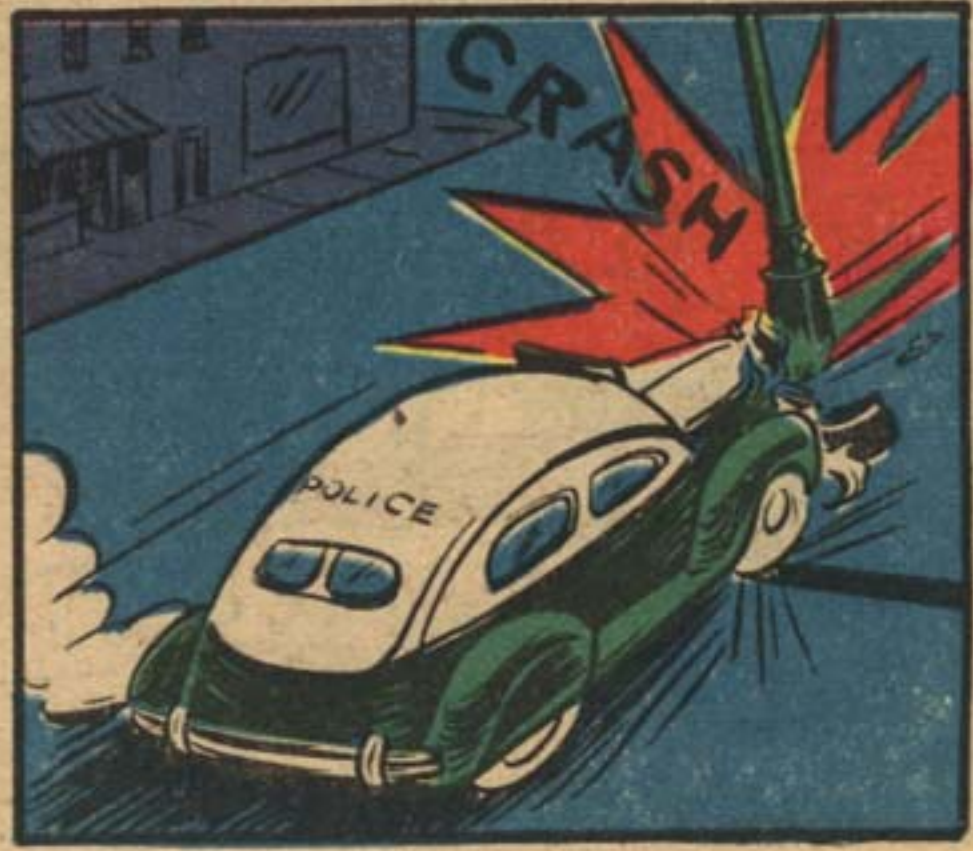
THE EDITORS.

THE BLACK HOOD

MAN OF MYSTERY

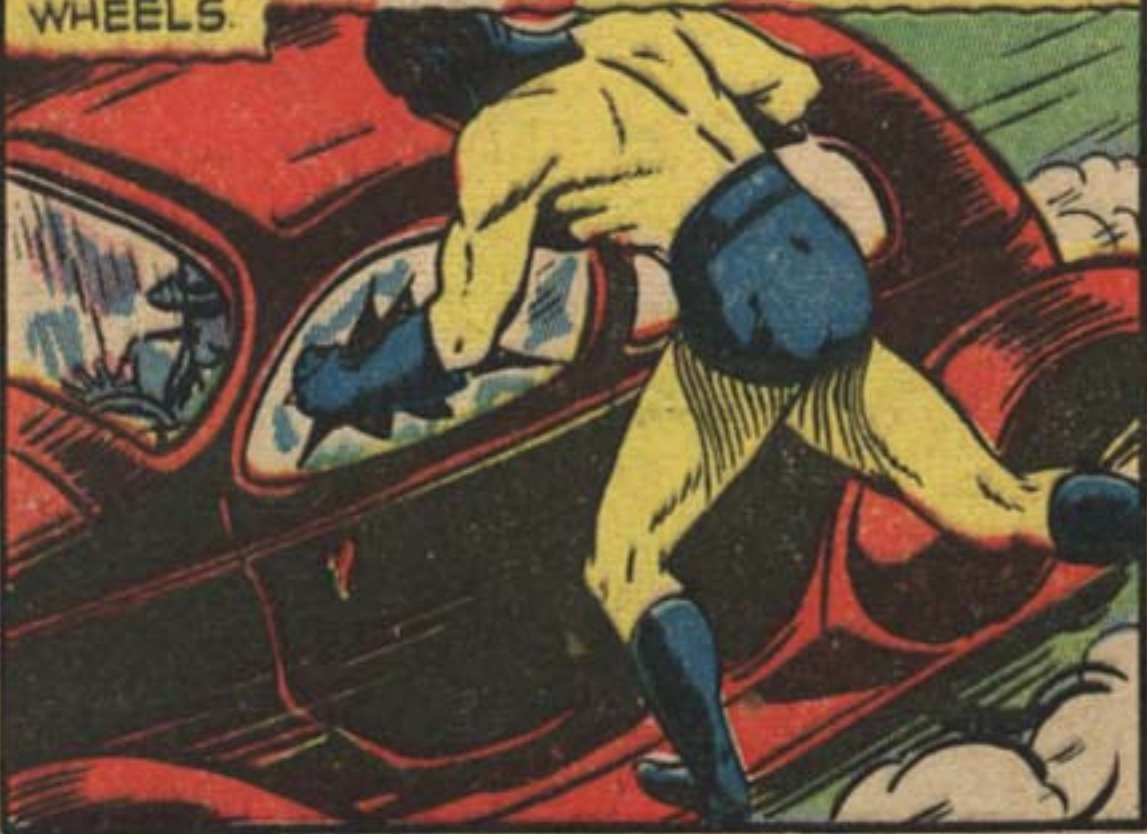


THE THICK STILLNESS OF NIGHT IS SHATTERED BY THE STACCATTO SPITTING OF MACHINE GUN FIRE AS GANGSTERS FLEE PELLMELL THROUGH THE DESERTED CITY STREETS WITH THE POLICE IN CLOSE PURSUIT! THEN A BURST OF FIRE FINDS ITS TARGET IN THE FRONT TIRE OF THE POLICE CAR AND ----



AS THE KILLERS CONTINUE THEIR GETAWAY, A FIGURE MELTS OUT OF THE SHADOWS - THE BLACK HOOD.

A GREAT LEAP CARRIES THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE ONTO THE RUNNING BOARD AS THE CAR CAREENS AROUND A CORNER ON TWO WHEELS.

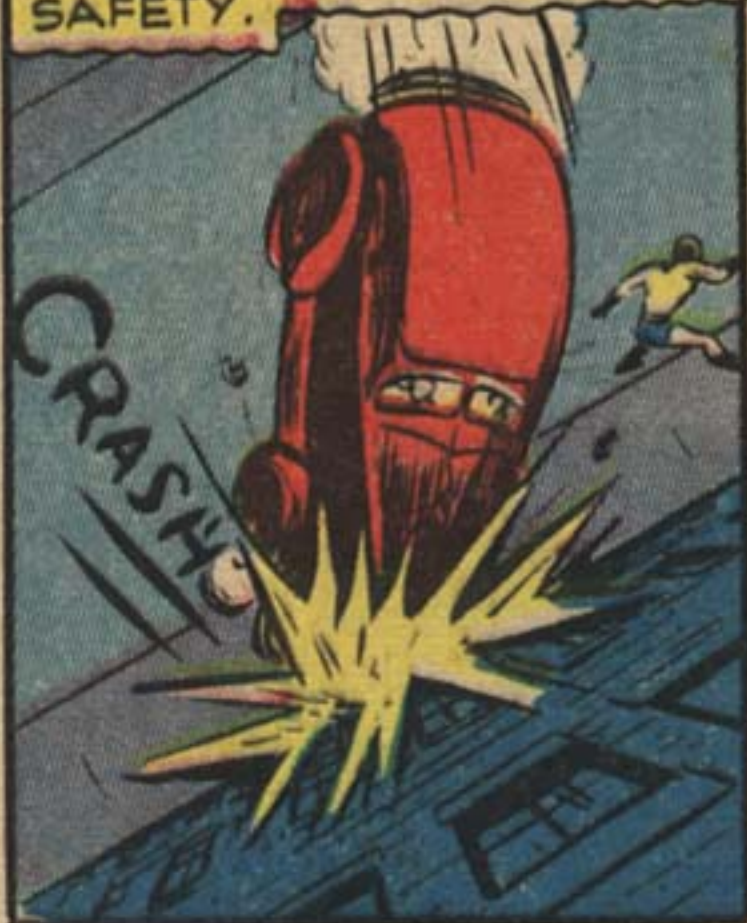


(GULP) THE BLACK HOOD!

WHOA, NELLIE!



OUT OF CONTROL, THE KILLER'S CAR PITCHES INTO A BUILDING, AS THE BLACK HOOD MAKES A SPLIT SECOND JUMP TO SAFETY.



AND AS THE HOOD REMOVES THE THUGS, THE POLICE COME RUNNING UP.



OH, SO YOU'RE PART OF THIS GANG, TOO! HOOD!

DON'T BE A SAP, MCGINTY. I CAUGHT THEM FOR YOU!



OH, SURE! AND I ALSO BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS! WHAT KIND OF A DOPE DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?

ASK ME THAT SAME QUESTION, WHEN I REALLY HAVE TIME TO TELL YOU!



YOU'LL HAVE TIME HOOD! LOTS OF IT! HADES LL FREEZE OVER BEFORE I LET YOU OUT!



WHY DON'T YOU PUT THOSE WORDS TO MUSIC, SARGE THEY'RE GETTING MONOTONOUS!

LATER HEY! WHATS BITIN' YOU BABS?

PULLENTY! OUT OF MY WAY! YOU!





SO YOU'VE LOCKED UP THE HOOD AGAIN, YOU--- YOU LAME BRAIN! IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM YOU'D BE PEDDLING PENCILS WITH THE OTHER BLIND MEN-- INSTEAD OF HOLDING DOWN THAT FAT JOB!



YOU CAN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT TO ME!
WELL, I SAID THEM! AND I AM GOING TO SAY PLENTY MORE IN MY PAPER!



HELLO, BABS! WOW, YOU SURE LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ON THE WAR-PATH!
I AM HOOD. AND THIS TIME, I'M GOING TO HAVE MY OWN WAY!



I'M TIRED OF SEEING YOU GETTING KICKED AROUND BY MCGINTY, LIKE A HUNTED ANIMAL.

I DON'T MIND!



WELL I DO! I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT, THAT YOU GET THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE HOOD! WHEN I GET THROUGH, MCGINTY'LL LOOK FOR THE DEEPEST HOLE TO CRAWL INTO!



WAIT, BARBARA! I DON'T WANT ANY PUBLICITY I TELL YOU!



THAT NIGHT AFTER HOURS OF ARGUING WITH THE EDITOR,
THE PUBLIC WILL EAT IT UP, I TELL YOU!
OKAY, OKAY! YOU WIN! I OUGHT TO KNOW BETTER THAN TO ARGUE WITH A WOMAN!

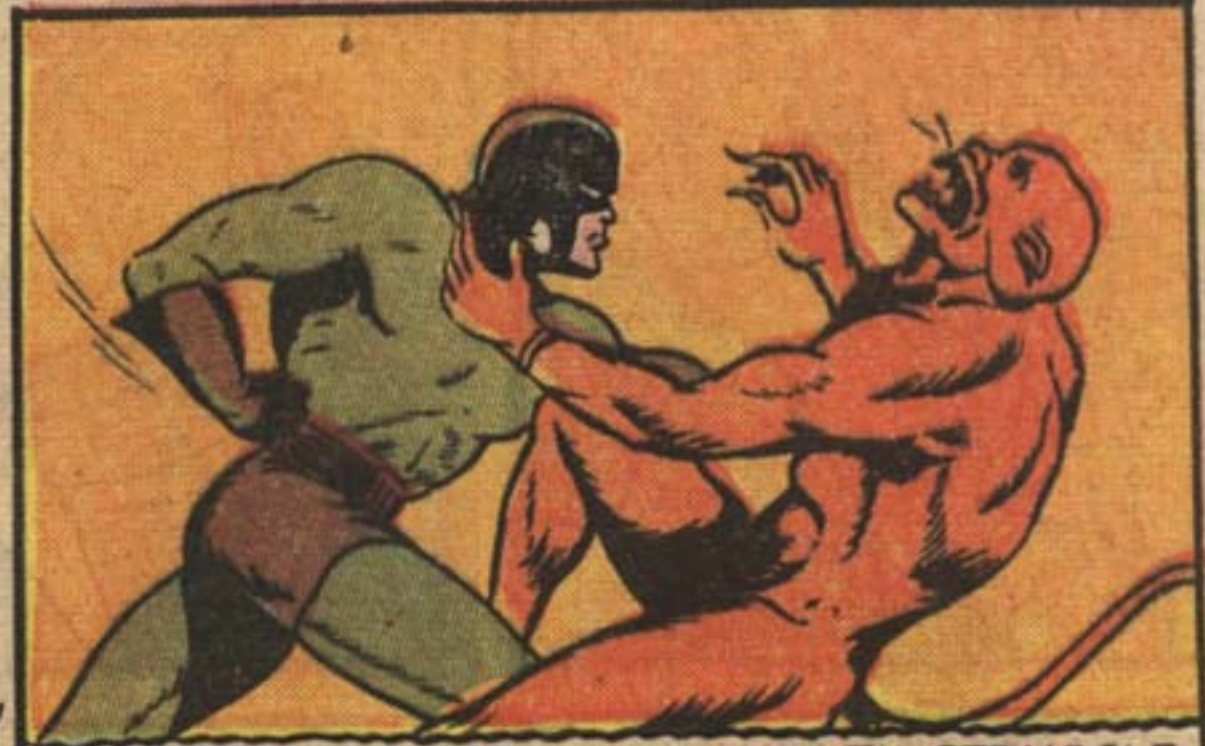


WUXTRY! READ ALL ABOUT THE BLACK HOOD WUXTRY!
AMAZING!

THRILLING EXPLOITS OF MAN OF MYSTERY BROUGHT TO LIGHT.



BLACK HOOD



BLACK HOOD IN LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE
WITH THE VICIOUS PANTHER MAN.



HERE, WE SEE THE HOOD
IN THE PROCESS OF
BRINGING TO JUSTICE
ONE OF THE GREAT-
EST CRIMINALS OF
MODERN TIME:
MARK HORLEY
THE FAMOUS
DETECTIVE
BY DAY---
RUTHLESS
MURDERER
BY NIGHT.



HERE WE HAVE THE MIST, WEIRD CREATURE WHO
WAS ABLE TO DISSOLVE HIS BODY INTO A GASEOUS
MIST.



THE FULL MENACE OF THE MIST WILL NEVER
REALLY BE KNOWN, FOR THANKS TO THE
DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE, HIS WAS A SHORT
LIVED, IF BLOODY CAREER OF CRIME.

THESE PICTURES ARE ABSOLUTELY AUTHENTIC AND A FAITHFUL DOCUMENT OF THE CAREER OF THE BLACK HOOD. OUR PURPOSE IN GIVING YOU, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, THIS PICTORAL SAGA OF HIS DEEDS, IS TO MAKE YOU AWARE OF THE VAST DEBT SOCIETY OWES THIS HEROIC KNIGHT OF JUSTICE!



BLACK HOOD OVERCOMING SCORPIO, THE ASTROLOGER OF DEATH, WHO ATTEMPTED THE ORGANIZATION OF CRIME ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE



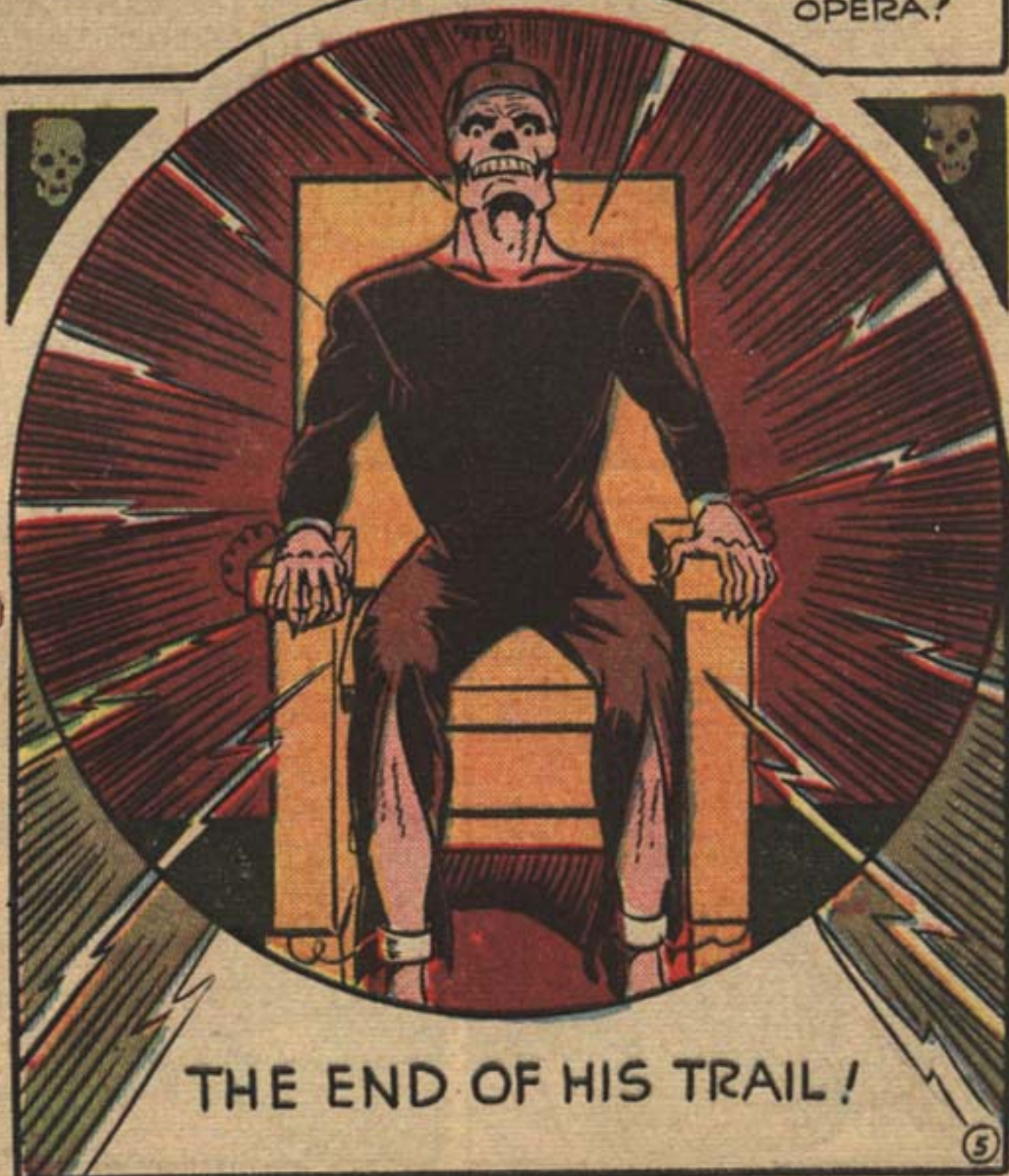
THE ANIMAL MAN, A FOE WORTHY OF THE HOOD'S GREATEST EFFORT!



AND YET ANOTHER IN THE BLACK HOOD'S -SEEMINGLY ENDLESS CHAIN OF OPPONENTS --- THE SLY MAD KILLER OF THE OPERA!



AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST THE SKULL, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THE HOOD DESERVES IMMORTAL FAME FOR BRINGING THE MOST RUTHLESS OF ALL CRIMINALS TO.....



THE END OF HIS TRAIL!



MC GINTY ALSO READS BARBARA'S STORY BUT WITH AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT REACTION

WHEW SARGE, AND WE GOT THE HOOD IN THE COOLER. THING'S 'LL BE PLENTY HOT FOR US NOW.



(GULP) THE MAYOR!

HERE IT COMES SARGE



I WANT TO HAVE A TALK WITH THE BLACK HOOD-- SERGEANT!

WHAT CHA STANDING THERE FOR? YOU HEARD THE MAYOR!



MY DEEPEST REGRETS HOOD! MISS SUTTON OPENED MY EYES TO THE SERVICES YOU RENDERED TO THE LAW.

THANK YOU SIR!



AS FOR YOU, YOU---YOU CHOWDERHEAD HOUNDING THE HOOD AT EVERY TURN! I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU POUND THE BEAT AGAIN!

ER--- AH--- (ULP) YES,



JUST A MOMENT, MR MAYOR. MC GINTY IS REALLY MY FRIEND. YOU SEE IT'S A PLAN WE HAVE! MY BEING ON THE OUTS ALL THE TIME! THE CROOKS ARE UNCERTAIN WHICH

SIDE OF THE LAW I'M REALLY ON!



SAY, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! FORGIVE ME SERGEANT YOU DESERVE A PROMOTION FOR THIS---I'LL SEE YOU GET IT!

BUT HOOD---

SHH!



AFTER THE MAYOR LEAVES

THANKS A MILLON, HOOD! IT WAS SWELL OF YOU.

FORGET IT! MC GINTY YOU'RE DUMB BUT I LIKE YOU!



NEXT DAY I STILL DON'T LIKE THAT MOVING PICTURE PUBLICITY

OH H-- SOME ONE'S AT THE DOOR



COME IN!

MISS BARBARA SUTTON?



WHY YES!

WE REPRESENT THE PARA-METRO MOVING PICTURE PRODUCTIONS. WE'RE TRYING TO CONTACT THE BLACK HOOD TO ALLOW THE USE OF HIS NAME ON A CRIME DOES NOT PAY PICTURE.



THE HOOD IS ON EVERYBODY'S TONGUE. HIS NAME WOULD DRAW THEM LIKE A MAGNET! JUST THINK OF THE EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE --- WHAT A TREMENDOUS MESSAGE IT WILL CARRY --- MONEY IS NO OBJECT! WE'LL PAY ANYTHING



ER--- I MORE OR LESS REPRESENT THE BLACK HOOD. IF YOU FEEL THAT A CRIME PICTURE WOULD DO THAT MUCH GOOD --- GO AHEAD AND USE HIS NAME! AND FORGET ABOUT THE MONEY!

THAT'S GREAT!



ONLY THING IS MISS SUTTON AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT MADE -- ANY OBJECTIONS?

DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU! WE'LL START AT ONCE!



WHEW! I'M STILL DIZZY EVERYTHING'S HAPPENED SO FAST!

WELL YOU STARTED THE WHOLE THING!



BARBARA AND KIP ARRIVE IN HOLLYWOOD AND ARE IMMEDIATELY USHERED TO THE STUDIO.



MR. BURLAND... MISS SUTTON, I'M THE DIRECTOR --- THIS IS ROGER TAYLOR ONE OF OUR OLD TIME ACTORS -- A VERY GOOD ONE IN HIS DAY!

HOW DO YOU DO, MR. TAYLOR?



OUR DIRECTOR FRIEND IS BEING DIPLOMATIC, I HAVE BEEN RETIRED BY REQUEST! YOU KNOW, WE CAN'T LAST FOREVER, I SUPPOSE!

BOY, THAT GUY AMAZES ME!
I THOUGHT HE'D HAVE FRENCH
PUPS WHEN WE TORE UP
HIS CONTRACT. BUT HE IS
TAKING IT LIKE A GOOD
SCOUT!



ONE SIDE, PLEASE --- WELL
MR KOPRA! I' AM
READY!



HMMPH! HOW NICE! YOU'VE
ONLY KEPT US WAITING AN
HOUR! ARE YOU SURE,
WE'RE NOT RUSHING
YOU?



BLANKETY---BLANK!
WILL YOU POWDER
YOUR NOSE
AND GET GOING?

HA, HA! THAT'S
HAMILTON STRUTT,
THE ONE WHO IS
PLAYING THE
BLACK HOOD, KIP!

MUST BE SURE
I LOOK MY BEST
FOR MY PUBLIC
YOU KNOW!



OKAY! LIGHTS
ACTION
CAMERA!



THE SHOOT-
ING
BEGINS



BLACKHOOD!



YOU'RE
THROUGH
WASP!

NO, I'M NOT!
YOU ARE!

OOPH BONG





STOP! STOP!
THAT FELLOW
PLAYING THE
WASP IS A
FAKE!



I WAS LOCKED
IN MY ROOM---
PROBABLY BY
HIM. I JUST
BROKE OUT!



**HEY, COME
BACK!**
WHO ARE
YOU? WHAT
KIND OF A
GAG IS
THIS?

YOU'LL
SOON
FIND
OUT!



HA, HA -- MY ACTING
WAS SUPERB, WAS IT
NOT? --- FOOLED EVERY-
BODY--EVEN THE FAMOUS
DIRECTOR FRANK KOPRA!



(ULP) MR KOPRA!
THAT WAS A REAL
KNIFE THAT WAS
USED --- THIS
GUY'S D-DEAD!



THEN A
FIGURE
FLASHES
UPWARD
IN PUR-
SUIT!
THE REAL
BLACK
HOOD
SPRINGS
INTO
ACTION



**THERE
HE GOES!**



**BUT NOT
VERY FAR!**

UGH!

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO DO MORE ACTING!



SAVAGELY--THE TWO PUMMEL EACH OTHER WITH SLEDGE HAMMER BLOWS



THEN STRIKING OUT WITH ANIMAL LIKE FEROCITY, THE KILLER LAUNCHES A CRUSHING FIST AT THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE.



Ooo! WHAT A SOCK!



AND WHAT A SUCKER HE MADE OF ME-- BUT I'LL MEET UP WITH HIM YET!



WHILE BACK ON THE SET

DON'T ANYBODY SAY ANYTHING TO STRUTT ABOUT THIS KILLING OR HE'LL QUIT ON ME SURE!



OKAY!

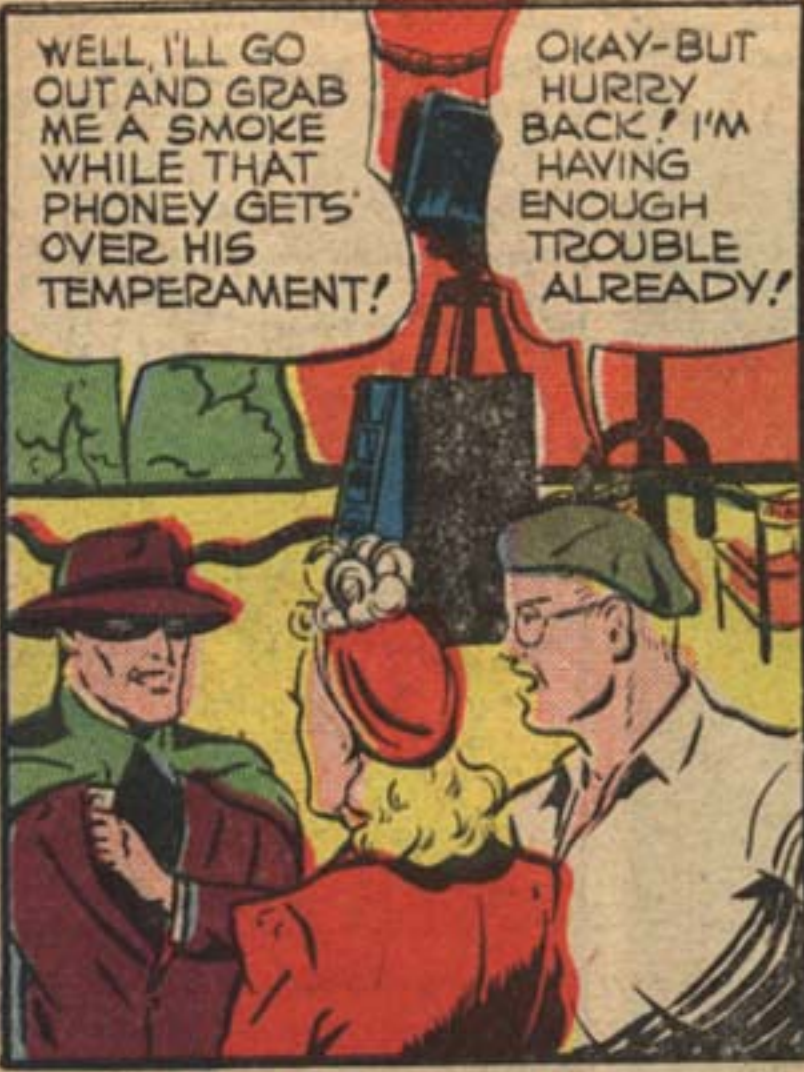
MY EYE! IT'S BLACK AND BLUE!



I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS! AND DON'T FORGET, AND FIRE THAT ACTOR FOR HITTING ME SO HARD!



B-BUT WAIT!



WELL, I'LL GO OUT AND GRAB ME A SMOKE WHILE THAT PHONEY GETS OVER HIS TEMPERAMENT!

OKAY-BUT HURRY BACK! I'M HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE ALREADY!



I'M STILL JITTERY ABOUT THIS --- WHY I MIGHT BE MURDERED NEXT!



SUDDENLY A TRAP DOOR OPENS AND ----

VEEOW



THE KILLER ONCE AGAIN STRIKES



HA, HA! THIS IS TOO SIMPLE! ONCE AGAIN I SHALL TAKE YOUR PLACE.



ARE WE READY TO GO YET?

NO! KOPRA IS STILL PLEADING WITH STRUTT!



BUT NOBODY'LL SEE YOUR EYES UNDER THAT MASK I TELL YOU

VERY WELL, I'LL DO IT!



I'M ONLY DOING THIS AT A GREAT SACRIFICE, YOU KNOW, MY ART COMES BEFORE MY PERSONAL FEELINGS!

SURE, SURE! I KNOW HURRY, WILL YOU!



WHEW! ---WOTTA JOB I REALLY EARN MY DOUGH WITH THAT GUY. I ONLY WISH I COULD PUT A SHINER ON THE OTHER EYE!

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, I DON'T LIKE! I WONDER IF THAT ACTOR, THE WASP COULD BE THE KILLER----NO---HE WOULDN'T DARE! JUST THE SAME, I WISH THE HOOD WERE HERE!



AT THAT MOMENT, THE HOOD IS STILL HUNTING FOR THE KILLER IN THE CELLAR.



I GUESS I'VE LOST HIM!

SAY! WHAT'S THAT?



IT'S THE ACTOR WHO'S PLAYING THE WASP. HE'S COMING TO--- WHAT HAPPENED, OLD MAN?

OOO---MY HEAD! SOMEONE SLUGGED ME FROM BEHIND!



WHILE ON THE SET

OKAY, ASP! NOW YOU SNEAK UP FROM BEHIND ON YOUR VICTIM! GO TO IT!



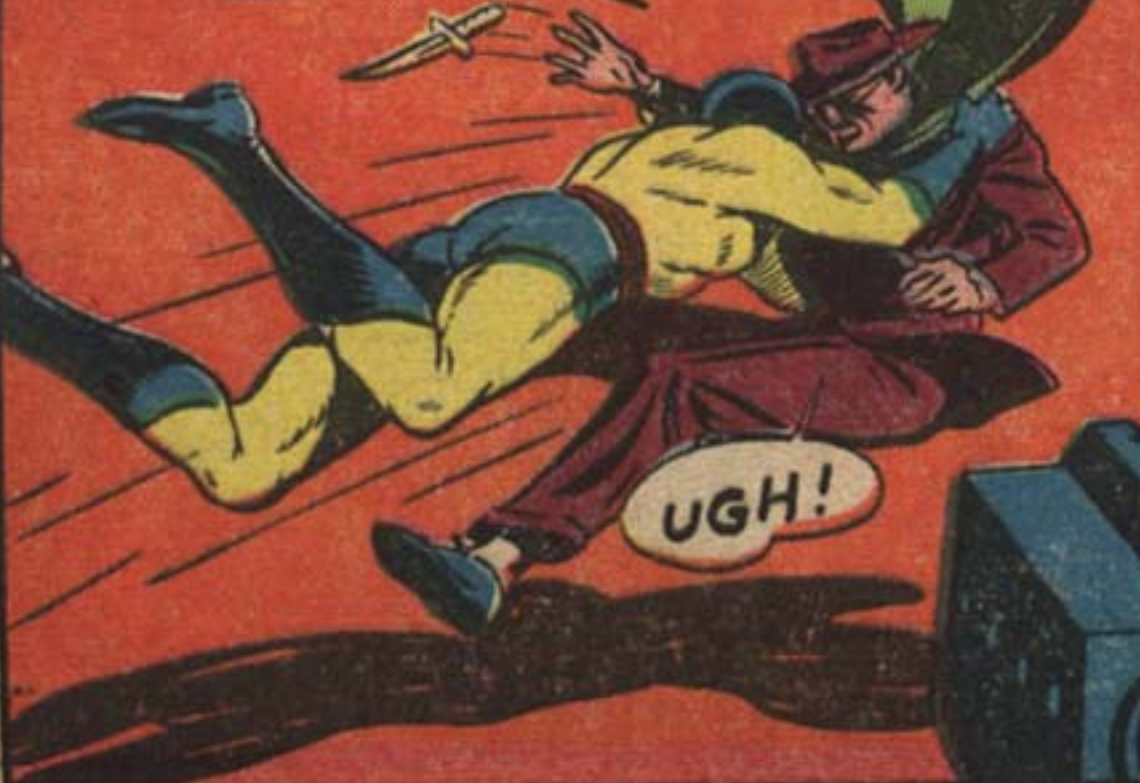
THE FOOLS! HOW EASILY THEY'RE OUTWITTED---- MY NEXT VICTIM HE SAID! IF ONLY HE KNEW IT REALLY WILL BE MY NEXT VICTIM!



WAIT--STOP THAT MAN! I HAVE A QUEER FEELING SOMETHING IS WRONG.



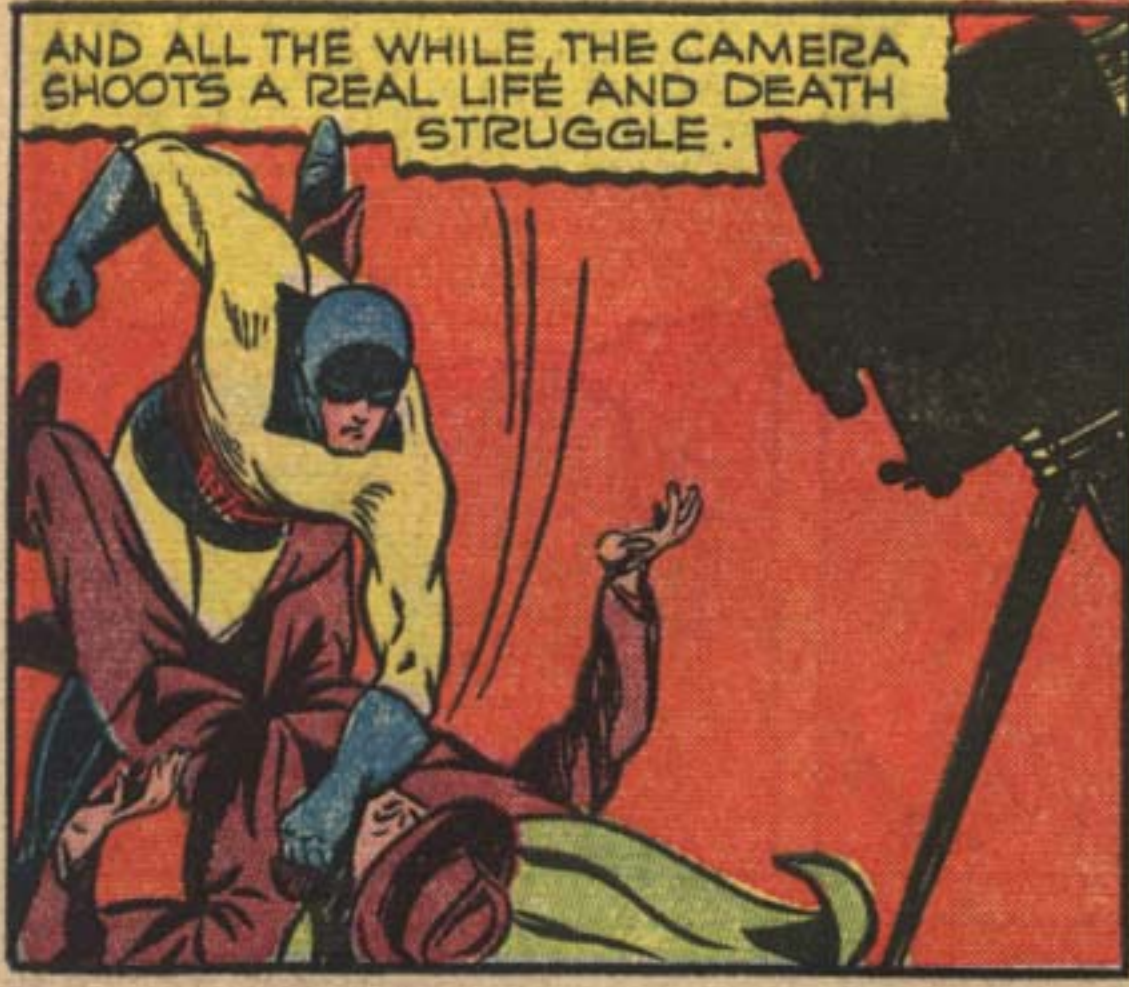
IT'S MORE THAN A FEELING, WITH ME! I KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG!



BOY! WHAT ACTION! I NEVER KNEW STRUTT HAD IT IN HIM. IT ALMOST LOOKS REAL! KEEP THAT CAMERA GRINDING!



AND ALL THE WHILE, THE CAMERA SHOOTS A REAL LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE.



WHEE!
LOOKA THEM GO!
IT'S NOT IN THE SCRIPT--
BUT IT'S GREAT!



NOW I'VE GOT YOU!

UGH!



YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING ALRIGHT, BUT IT ISN'T ME!



CUT!



GREAT WORK, STRUTT!
YOU'LL GET A BONUS FOR THIS!

IM NOT STRUTT!
I'M THE BLACK HOOD!
AND THIS WAS NO ACT!



HA, HA, HA! ALWAYS KIDDING, AREN'T YOU?
OKAY, AFTER A JOB LIKE THAT, YOU CAN GAG ALL YOU WANT TO!

JUST THEN STRUTT ENTERS



I'M READY TO START NOW, KOPRA!

WHA... WHO...?

KOPRA! I WAS SLUGGED! THAT GUY IS A PHONEY!



HEY! WHO'S WHO AROUND HERE ANYWAY?

THAT IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW MYSELF --- AH, JUST AS I THOUGHT! A PUTTY NOSE! AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, ROGER TAYLOR THE EX-MOVIE STAR WHO TOOK HIS RELEASE SO GRACEFULLY!



ALLRIGHT! MY GAME'S UP! SO YOU ALL THOUGHT I COULDN'T ACT ANY MORE? WELL, HOW DID YOU LIKE MY DEMONSTRATION? I CERTAINLY HAD YOU, THE GREAT DIRECTOR FOOLED DIDN'T I? THIS WAS A TRIUMPH FOR ME-KOPRA!



I WAS SAYING YOU FOR THE LAST, AND I WOULD'VE GOT YOU, TOO, BUT FOR THE BLACK HOOD!



CURSE YOU ALL! YOU WERE ALL JEALOUS OF ME. I'M STILL THE GREATEST ACTOR IN THE WORLD. THE GREATEST I TELL YOU! THE GREATEST!

C'MON GET GOIN'!

NUTTY AS A FRUIT CAKE.



WELL S'LONG MY JOB'S DONE! HOPE YOU LIKE YOUR CRIME PICTURE!



WHAT IS ALL THIS ABOUT? HOW MUCH LONGER MUST I WAIT! MY PATIENCE IS EX-HAUSTED!

WELL SO'S MINE --- WITH YOU!



BOY, I'VE BEEN WANTIN' TO DO THAT FOR YEARS! THAT IS SOMETHING ELSE I'VE GOT THE BLACK HOOD TO THANK FOR!

IT'S HERE GANG- AND HOW! WE MEAN JACKPOT NO 4, AN ALL STAR CAST HEADED BY THE BLACK HOOD JUST ITCHING TO GIVE YOU MORE HE-MAN THRILLS THAN YOU THOUGHT, A COMIC BOOK COULD POSSIBLY HOLD. ON SALE AT ALL NEWSSTANDS RIGHT NOW!

THE BLACK HOOD SCORES HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF HOODED DETECTIVE MAGAZINE! "THE WHISPERING EYE" A BOOK LENGTH NOVEL OF THE DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE, MOST COLORFUL CRIME FIGHTER IN MODERN FICTION, PLUS OTHER CHOCIC-FULL-OF-THRILLS. SHORT STORIES. THAT'S WORTH 10¢ IN ANY MAN'S COUNTRY. GET YOUR COPY NOW!

The WIZARD

with
ROY
THE
SUPER-BOY

THE STATEROOM OF JULIUS FAIRCHILD, MILLIONAIRE REFUGEE, SAILING TO A HAVEN IN AMERICA... SUDDENLY A BLINDING LIGHT CRASHES INTO HIS SLUMBER AND HE WAKENS TO THE TERRIFYING REALIZATION THAT A BOX OF JEWELS THE LAST OF HIS ONCE VAST FORTUNE --- IS BEING STOLEN---



ALSO ON BOARD:

DID YOU HEAR THAT, BLANE? SOUNDED LIKE A CRY!

THAT'S WHAT IT WAS! LET'S GO!



Paul Reinman ①



THE WIZARD!
WE'RE SUNK!



YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL, FELLER!



SOUNDS LIKE A VOLCANO ERUPTING ON B DECK!
WE'D BETTER GET DOWN THERE!



HERE YOU ARE, GENTLEMEN!
A PAIR OF REAL CELEBRITIES "HANDSOME HAL" WILSON AND "DOGFACE" GORDON!



WELL, THINK OF THAT - TWO FAMOUS INTERNATIONAL CROOKS ON MY SHIP AT THE SAME TIME - I'M HONORED!



I'M VERY GRATEFUL, DEEPLY GRATEFUL!
THIS IS ALL I HAVE LEFT IN THE WORLD. THE NAZIS TOOK THE REST. YOU SAVED IT FOR ME!



WHO IS THIS MAN WHO HAS BEEN AN UNSEEN SPECTATOR TO THE ENTIRE SCENE AND NOW FURTIVELY WATCHES THE DUO MAKE OFF?



IN THE BALLROOM, SITS HUGO HOLST, A SEEMING INVALID, WATCHING THE DANCERS, AND AT HIS SIDE IS A SHIP ACQUAINTANCE, FAIRCHILD'S NURSE!



GOOD EVENING, SIR!
HELLO, WARREN, HAVE YOU MET MISS CROSS, MR. FAIRCHILD'S NURSE?

P-S-S-T - THE WIZARD'S ON BOARD. HANDSOME HAL AND DOGFACE PULLED ONE OF THEIR USUAL ROUGH STUNTS AND HE NABBED THEM. NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

KEEP THE NURSE BUSY!



HA! THE OLD BUZZARD'S ASLEEP! WHAT A SET-UP!

WITH A VIGOROUS LEAP, THE SEEMING INVALID LEAVES HIS WHEELCHAIR ---



-AND SUFFOCATES THE OLD MAN WITH A PILLOW--

THERE WON'T BE A MARK ON HIM. IT'LL LOOK LIKE HE DIED IN HIS SLEEP!



I'VE GOT TO GET THE OLD GOAT TO MY ROOM FAST! I HOPE NOBODY'S WALKING AROUND THE DECK!



THAT DOES IT! HE'S A DEAD RINGER FOR ME!



IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS IN VAUDEVILLE ONCE. WITH THIS MAKE-UP NOBODY'LL DOUBT I'M JULIUS FAIRCHILD!

NOW, I JUST HAVE TO GET NICE AND COMFY IN HIS BED AND PLAY THE GAME TILL WE GET TO NEW YORK!



HA! HA! COME TO PAPA! THERE'S A MILLION BUCKS IN THESE ROCKS IF THERE'S A CENT!



GOOD NIGHT, MR. WARREN, I MUST SEE IF MR. FAIRCHILD NEEDS ME NOW!

GOOD-NIGHT, MISS CROSS!



IT'S HIS NURSE!

MAY I COME IN MR. FAIRCHILD?



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

YES, MISS CROSS. YOU MAY GO TO BED NOW!



WHAT A JOB! NOBODY'LL KNOW THIS IS FAIRCHILD. HOLST FIXED HIM TO LOOK LIKE HIS TWIN BROTHER!



HURRY, DOCTOR! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MR. HOLST!



HE'S DEAD, POOR FELLOW. LOOKS LIKE SUFFOCATION AFTER A SEVERE ATTACK OF ASTHMA!



HOLST'S TRICK REMAINS UNDER COVER AND THE BODY IS BURIED AT SEA---



AT LAST... A WELCOME SIGHT FOR THE EYES OF THE SHIP'S PASSENGERS ---



LOOK, BLANE, JANE'S COME DOWN TO MEET US!



I WONDER WHO THAT DIGNIFIED OLD MAN MIGHT BE!



MAY BE A STORY FOR YOU THERE, JANE. THAT'S THE JULIUS FAIRCHILD!



OH, MR. FAIRCHILD WOULD YOU GIVE ME AN INTERVIEW FOR MY PAPER?

SORRY, YOUNG LADY, I'M IN A HURRY!



C'MON, BEFORE MORE OF THESE REPORTERS START PESTERING ME!

MOE, YOU'RE JUST THE MAN I WANT. NOBODY PUSHES JANE BARLOW OFF THAT WAY!



A-R-R-R-K

HOP IN, MISS JANE!



DONT LOSE SIGHT OF HIM, MOE. I'LL SHOW THAT OLD GEEZER WHEN I WANT A STORY I GET IT!



THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD TIME, DRIVER. HERE'S AN EXTRA BUCK!



GOOD WORK, MOE. WAIT HERE FOR ME. I'M GOING TO TALK TO THAT SNOOTY MR. FAIRCHILD!



IN THE HOUSE... HURRY, BOSS, WE GOTTA GET GOING! I'LL HAVE THIS OFF IN A JIFFY, WARREN!



HAW! HAW! WAIT'LL THEY FIND THERE'S NO MR. FAIRCHILD!

C'MON, WE GOTTA DATE WITH JAKE, THE FENCE!



BUT AS THEY HURRY AWAY HOLST'S FALSE BEARD FALLS OUT OF THE MAKE-UP KIT.



I WONDER WHERE MR. FAIRCHILD IS. I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND HIM!

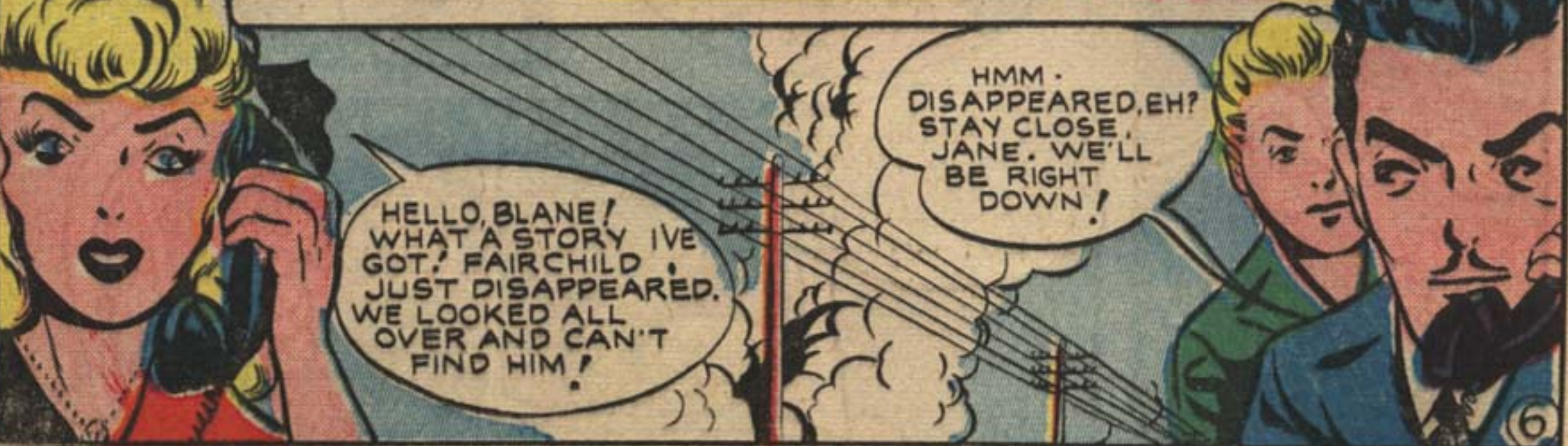
FAIRCHILD'S NURSE BECOMES ALARMED AT HIS SUDDEN ABSENCE.



JUST THEN, JANE ENTERS

ER...I'D LIKE TO SEE MR. FAIRCHILD!

HE'S GONE! I DON'T KNOW WHERE?



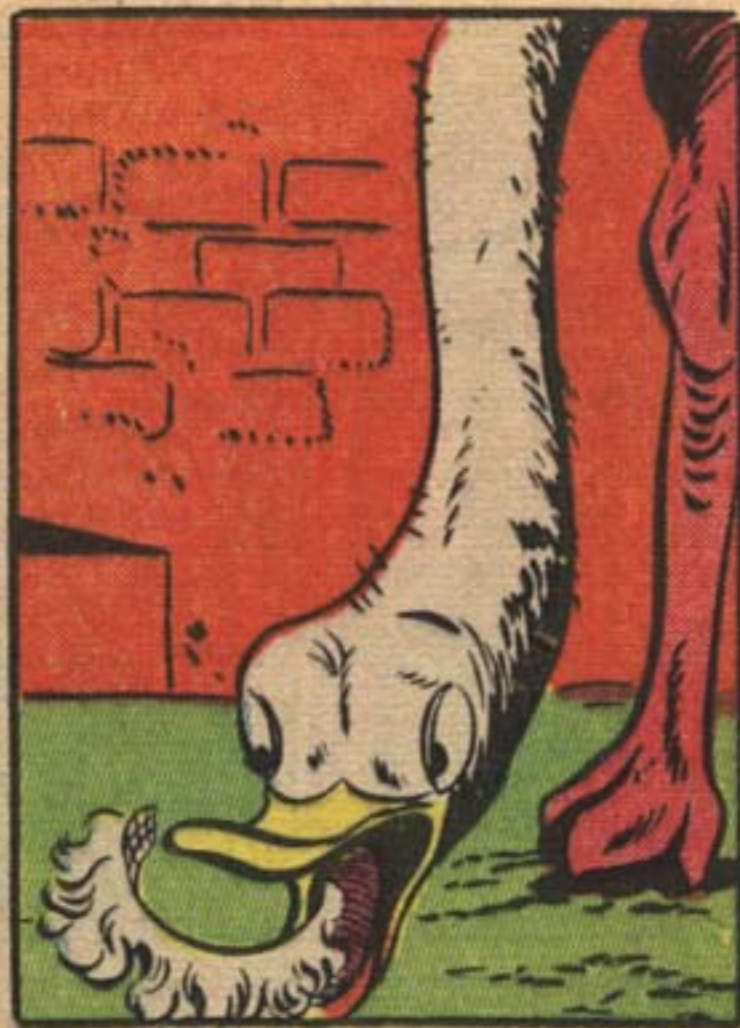
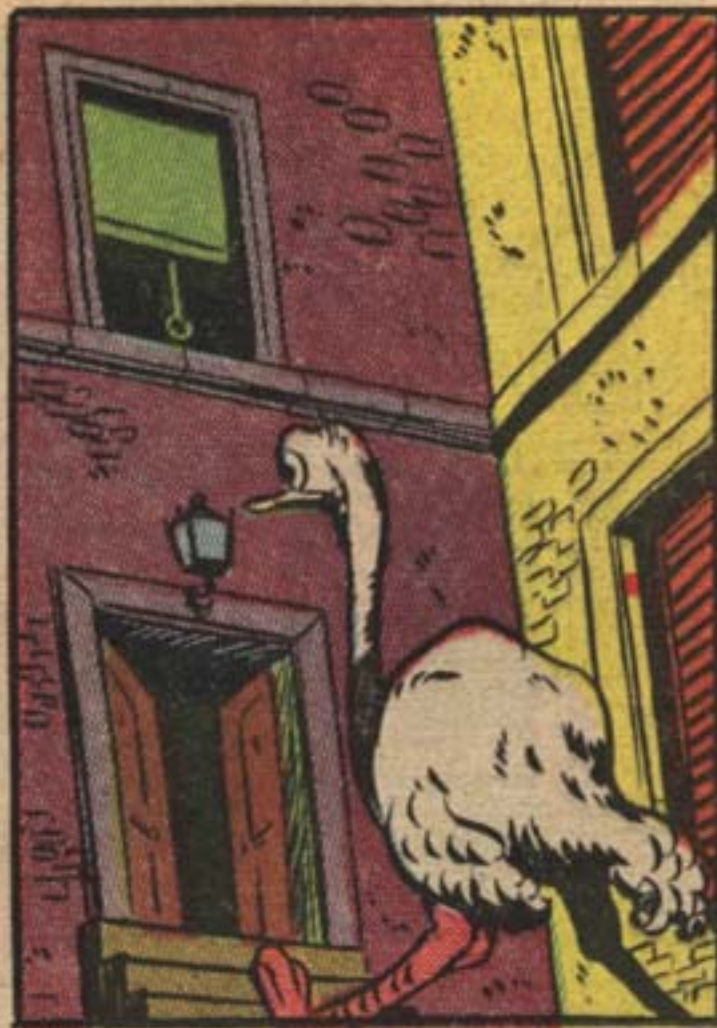
HELLO, BLANE! WHAT A STORY I'VE GOT! FAIRCHILD JUST DISAPPEARED. WE LOOKED ALL OVER AND CAN'T FIND HIM!

HMM. DISAPPEARED, EH? STAY CLOSE, JANE. WE'LL BE RIGHT DOWN!

IN THE MEANTIME ---

HEY, OSCAR
COME BACK
OR I'LL WRING
YOUR NECK!

A-R-R-K-



YOU
BIG BUM!
WHAT'VE
YOU BEEN
UP TO
NOW?



WHERE'D YOU GET THAT
PHONY BEARD? GIMME
THAT! YOU LOOK
SILLY ENOUGH
WITHOUT
WISKERS!



HELLO, JANE!
ANY MORE
NEWS ON
FAIRCHILD'S
FADEOUT?



WHERE'D THAT
BEARD COME
FROM,
MOE?

DUNNO!
OSCAR
WAS WEAR-
ING IT!



THOSE WHISKERS LOOK
LIKE FAIRCHILD'S! I
WONDER - HOLY COW -
THAT BURIAL AT SEA --
I THINK I SEE IT, NOW --



WE'LL COVER ALL THE PAWN
SHOPS. ROY, YOU TAKE HALF
AND I'LL TAKE HALF. IF WE
FIND FAIRCHILD'S JEWELS
WE'LL FIND THE BIRD WHO
WAS MAS-
QUERADING
AS FAIR-
CHILD!



HELLO ROY! MIND IF I COME ALONG WITH YOU?

NOT IF YOU INSIST JANE!



LOOK, BUDDY, IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR HOT STUFF HERE YOU GOTTA BUM STEER. THIS JOINT IS STRICTLY ON THE LEVEL, SEE?



I'LL TRY THE NEXT ONE!

HMM THAT MAN IN BACK LOOKS FAMILIAR!



WHY THAT'S THE FELLOW FAIRCHILD TOOK THE CAB WITH I THINK I'LL GO BACK AND ASK A FEW QUESTIONS!



HELP HELP

THAT'S JANE. SHE MUST HAVE GONE BACK!



LET HER GO YOU BIG APE, OR I'LL KNOCK YOUR EARS OFF!



AS A MATTER OF FACT I'LL KNOCK 'EM OFF ANYWAY!



O.K. - SISTER, GET TOUGH. NOW. AND I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, PLENTY!



LET HER HAVE IT, JAKE! DON'T WAIT!

YOU MURDEROUS HOP-HEAD! DROP THAT GUN.



THIS'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, SONNY BOY!



I TOLD YOU ONCE BEFORE I WAS IN A HURRY! NOW, YOU'LL GET OUT OF MY WAY FOR GOOD!



I'D BETTER USE THIS PIG-STICKER ON 'EM! A ROD MAKES TOO MUCH NOISE!



JUST AS ALL HOPE SEEMS LOST FOR ROY AND JANE, THE VISION OF THEIR PLIGHT FLASHES THROUGH THE WIZARD'S BRAIN!



AND HE RACES ACROSS THE STREETS LIKE A STREAK...

...TO PLUNGE THROUGH THE PAWNSHOP DOOR ...



CRASH



I COULD KNOCK THIS RIGHT BACK AT YOU BUT I'D RATHER FEEL YOUR JAW ON MY FIST!



SOMETHING LIKE THIS!



HERE THEY ARE-- ALL OF FAIRCHILD'S JEWELS! IT'S TOO BAD BUT FAIRCHILD WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF THESE!



LOOK! THIS MAKEUP KIT! ONE OF THESE PLUG-UGLIES WAS MASQUERADING AS FAIRCHILD ALL THE TIME!



WELL, SO-LONG, JANE! YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO THE COPS!

WHAT'S ALL THE RACKET ABOUT?



THE WIZARD TOOK CARE OF THESE CROOKS AND I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE JEWELS UNTIL ONE OF MR. FAIRCHILD'S HEIRS CLAIMS THEM!

COME ON, YOU MUG!

READ SHIELD-WIZARD NO.6 FOR MORE ADVENTURES OF THE WIZARD. ON SALE NOW (11)

FRAN-FRAZER



FRAN FRAZER, PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE PICTURE MAGAZINE, STRIFE, AND HAL DAVIS, NEWSPAPER REPORTER ARE IN OCCUPIED FRANCE AT A SMALL TOWN IN THE FRENCH ALPS. THEN FRAN SEES SOMETHING OUTSIDE - AND HER NEWSPAPER BLOOD GETS THE BEST OF HER

HEY FRAN! FOR PETE'S SAKE PUT THAT CAMERA AWAY! IF THE HEINIES EVER CAUGHT YOU TAKIN' A PIC OF THIS, THEY'D FLAVOR OUR BREAKFAST WITH LEAD!

OH, NO YOU'RE NOT!

THOSE GERMANS ARE CONFISCATING AMERICAN FOOD SHIPMENTS MEANT FOR THE FRENCH - I'M GOING TO SEND THE PROOF BACK TO THE STATES!

GOOD GRIEF!





WE HAFF BEEN KEEP-
ING CLOSE
WATCH ON
YOU TWO!
YOU'RE
UNDER
ARREST!

OWW-I
WON'T EVEN
HAVE TIME TO
WRITE MY
OBITUARY!



HAL!...
UG-SLAY THE
LUMP-CHAY
WHEN I
AB-GRAY
THIS GUY!

I
ET-GAY
YOU,
FRAN!

QUIET!
YOU TWO-



NOW, HAL!

I GOT
MINE!

UGH!

OOO!



C'MON! WE GOTTA MAKE
A RUN FOR IT! THERE'S
A HORSE SLEIGH
OVER THERE!



WE'LL HAVE TO
TRY TO MAKE
THE SWISS
BORDER!

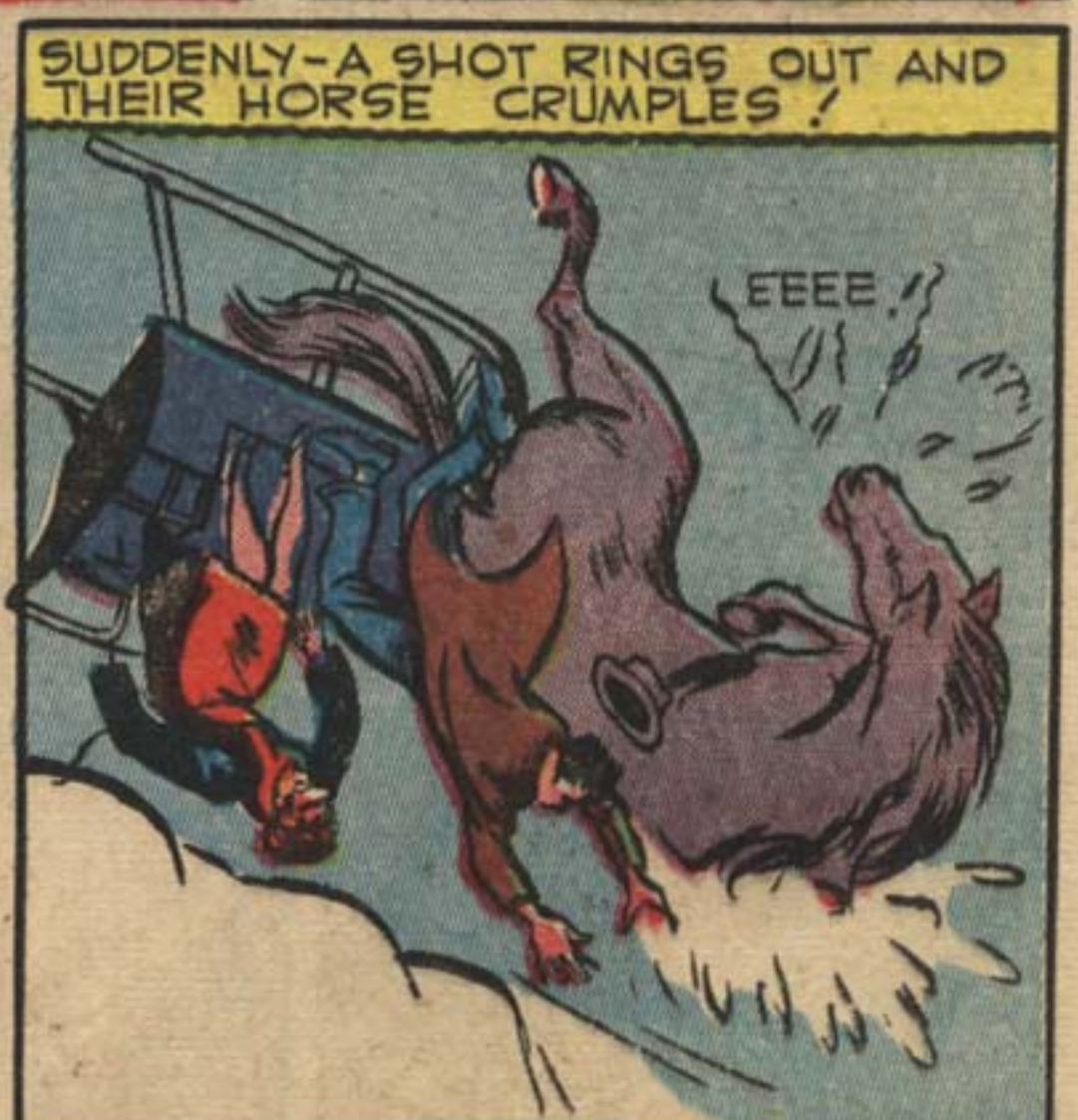


AFTER DEM! VE MUST
NOT LET DEM BEAT
US TO DE
BORDER!



FASTER, HAL!
THEY'RE GAINING
ON US!

YOU TRY TALKING
TO THE
HORSE!



SUDDENLY-A SHOT RINGS OUT AND
THEIR HORSE CRUMPLES!

EEEE!



WOW! WE'RE IN THE SOUP NOW! WE'LL HAVE TO HOOF IT THE REST OF THE WAY!

WELL, SO WILL THEY-IF WE STICK TO THE STEEP SLOPES!



DERE DEY GO! STOP, YOU TWO, OR I SHOOT!

SHOOT! AND BE HANGED!



AFTER CLIMBING FOR SOME TIME...

WE MADE IT, FRAN! THERE'S THE SUSPENSION CABLE CAR THAT CROSSES OVER TO THE SWISS BORDER

PUFF, PUFF-I'M ALL IN!



SPIK OPP PLEASE, I'M A LEEETLE DEAF!

I SAID WE'RE TOURISTS, AND WANT TO USE YOUR CABLE CAR!

WAIT A MINUTE, HAL! I THINK I KNOW HOW TO MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND!



AH! YOU VISH TO CROSS OFER VY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?



GRUNT... DIS MACHINERY! IT'S ALWAYS GETTING STUCK!

G*III* THIS COOT'S DUMBER THAN HE'S DEAF!

SHH!.. EASY HAL! WE CAN'T ANTAGONIZE HIM, NOW!



SO! DEY HAFF NOT YET CROSSED OFER! GOOD!

HOLY CROCKEY! OUR GOOSE IS COOKED NOW- HERE COME THE HEIN-IES!



MAYBE NOT!.. YOU KEEP THE OPERATOR BUSY SO HE DOESN'T SEE THE GERMANS I'M GOING TO TRY A LONG SHOT!

I HOPE THIS WORKS - I HOPE, I HOPE!

AS THE SNOWBALL ROLLS DOWN THE SLOPE, IT GATHERS MORE AND MORE SNOW-UNTIL...

HALLUP! BLITZKRIEG!

YIPPEE! THAT DID IT, FRAN!

WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET, HAL!

TA, TA, HEINIES - GIVE OUR BEST TO LITTLE ADOLPH - OUR BEST BRONX CHEER!

DUCK FRAN!

BANG

BANG

DUCK, NOTHING I'M GETTING SOME SWELL PHOTOS!

YOU'LL GET 'EM - IN THE WRONG PLACE, ONE OF THESE DAYS

WELL, HERE WE ARE, SAFE AND SOUND!

AT THE MOMENT, HAL STEPS OUT, THE CABLE CAR SUDDENLY GOES INTO REVERSE

HEY! WHAT IN...?

GOOD GRIEF! AN-OTHER SECOND, AND THE GER-MANS WOULD'VE DRAGGED US BACK!

THIS IS THE BEST PIC YET, HAL! HOLD IT!

GET ME UP-DANG YE! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE FUNNY!

MORE THRILLS WITH FRAN FRAZER AND HAL DAVIS IN THE NEXT ISSUE

KEITH KORNELL WEST POINTER

LIEUTENANT KEITH KORNELL, AND HIS AIDE SMOKY, ARE ON A SCOUTING TRIP THROUGH THE KENTUCKY HILLS, WHEN SUDDENLY.....

WHAT TH'! WHERE ARE THOSE BULLETS COMING FROM? WHOA, THERE!

DUCK LIEUTENANT!

THAT'S SOME OF WACKY'S WILD SHOOT-IN'! I'D RECOGNIZE IT ANYWHAR!

HE'S FIRING FROM BEHIND THAT ROCK-I'LL STOP THE FOOL BEFORE HE KILLS ONE OF US!

COME OUT OF THERE-YOU STUPID COOT! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

I GOT A MESSAGE FER YA' FROM THE COLONEL - THE ONLY WAY I COULD ATTRACT YER ATTENTION WAS BY FIRIN' MY GUN!



H'M - THEY'RE GOING TO USE THIS TERRITORY AS A FIRING RANGE, AND THEY WANT ME TO CLEAR THE COUNTRY FOR TWO MILES AROUND!



COME ON, BOYS, WE'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT JOB TO DO!

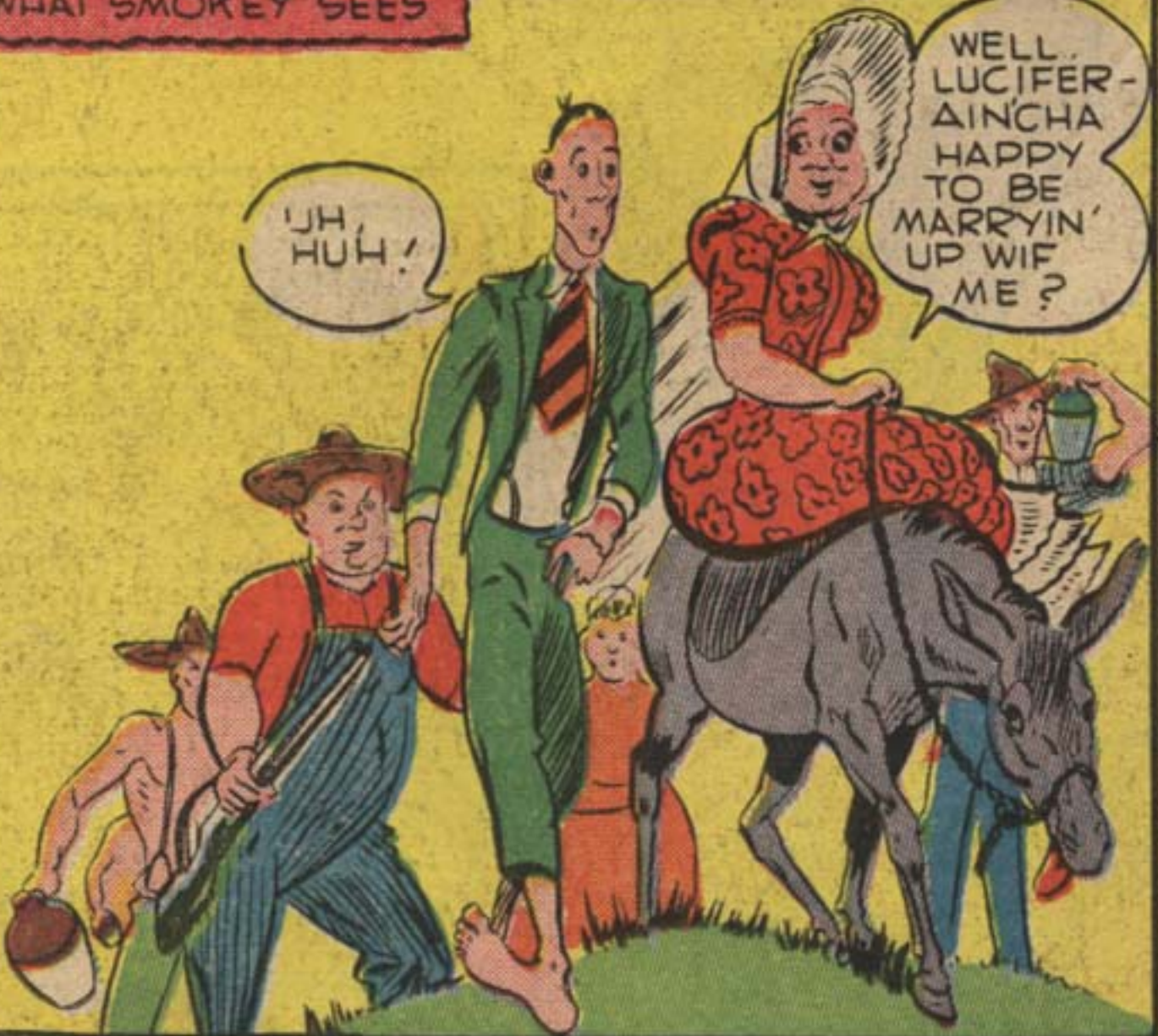
HEY LOOTINENT! LOOK DOWN THAR!



WHAT SMOKEY SEES

UH, HUH!

WELL, LUCIFER - AINCHA HAPPY TO BE MARRYIN' UP WIF ME?



HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

THET'S MY BROTHER LUCIFER AND MY PAPPY!

YEAH, AND MY SISTER ESMERELDA, AND MY PAW!



OH! THAR'S SMOKY AND WACKY-CUM TO SEE THE WEDDIN'!

HULLO, BOYS!

WELL, SINCE IT'S MY SISTER - I GISS AH'L HEV' TER BE BEST MAN!

YOU BEST MAN! WHERE DO YOU GIT THAT STUFF?



HE'S MAH BROTHER, AN' AH'M GOIN' TER BE BEST MAN!

OVER MAH DAID BODY!





MEANWHILE! SO-YORE SON THINKS HE'S A BETTER MAN THAN MAH SON, DOES HE?

YEAH! AN' AH KIN PROOVE IT!



ONCE AGAIN THE FEUD IS ON!



HEY! GET OUT OF THERE! THE SHOOTING'S GOING TO START!

IT ALREADY HAS-GINRIL!



THE FIRING'S DUE TO START IN ONE MINUTE - AND THEY'RE IN A DIRECT LINE WITH IT!



IF I DON'T GET THEM OUT OF THERE - I'LL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE

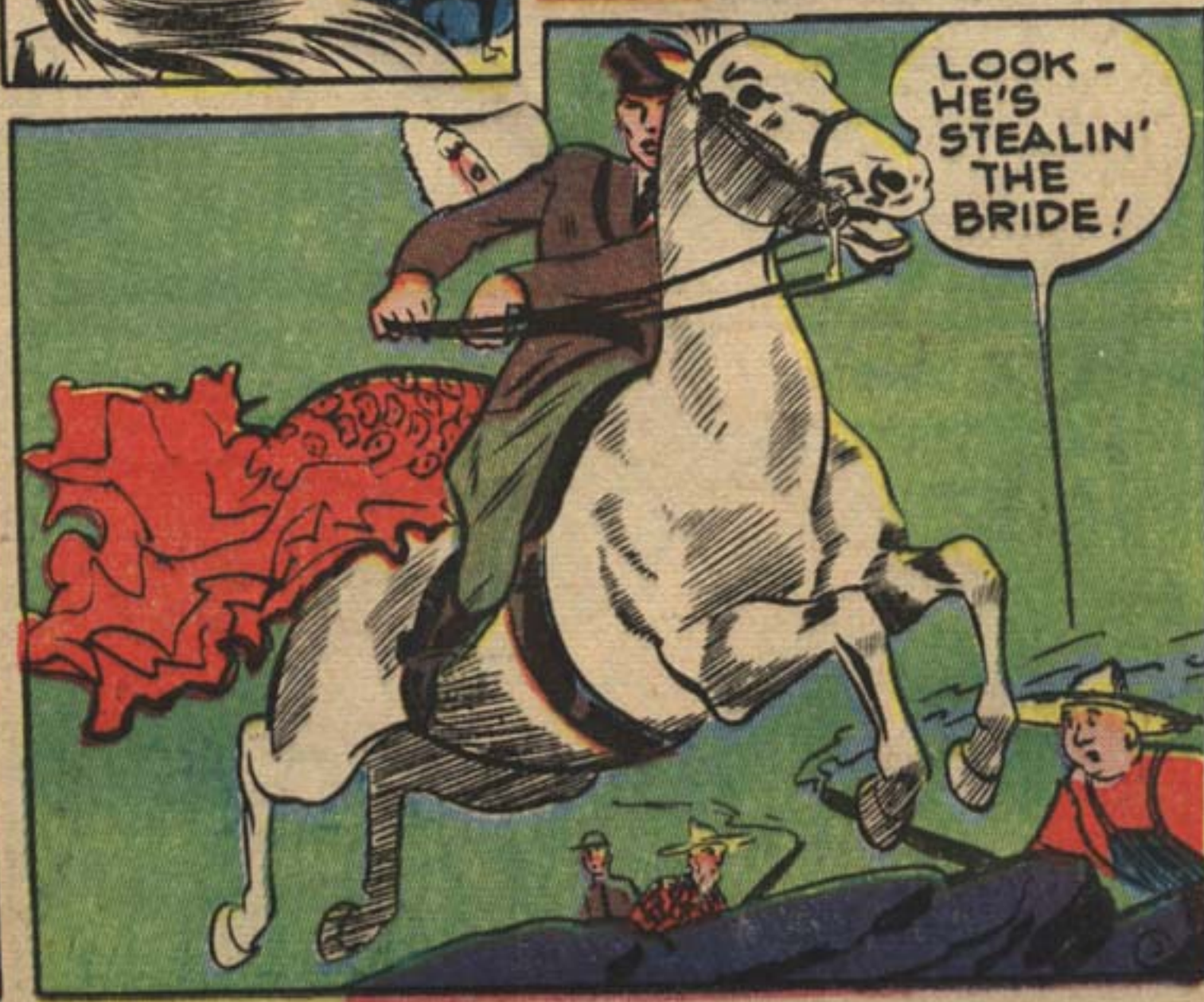


COME ON, BOY - I THINK I KNOW HOW WE CAN DO IT!



HEY-GINRIL, WHAT'RE Y' DOIN'!?

COME ON, SISTER, WE'RE GOING FOR A LITTLE RIDE!



LOOK - HE'S STEALIN' THE BRIDE!



CUM BACK - YO' HOSS THIEF!

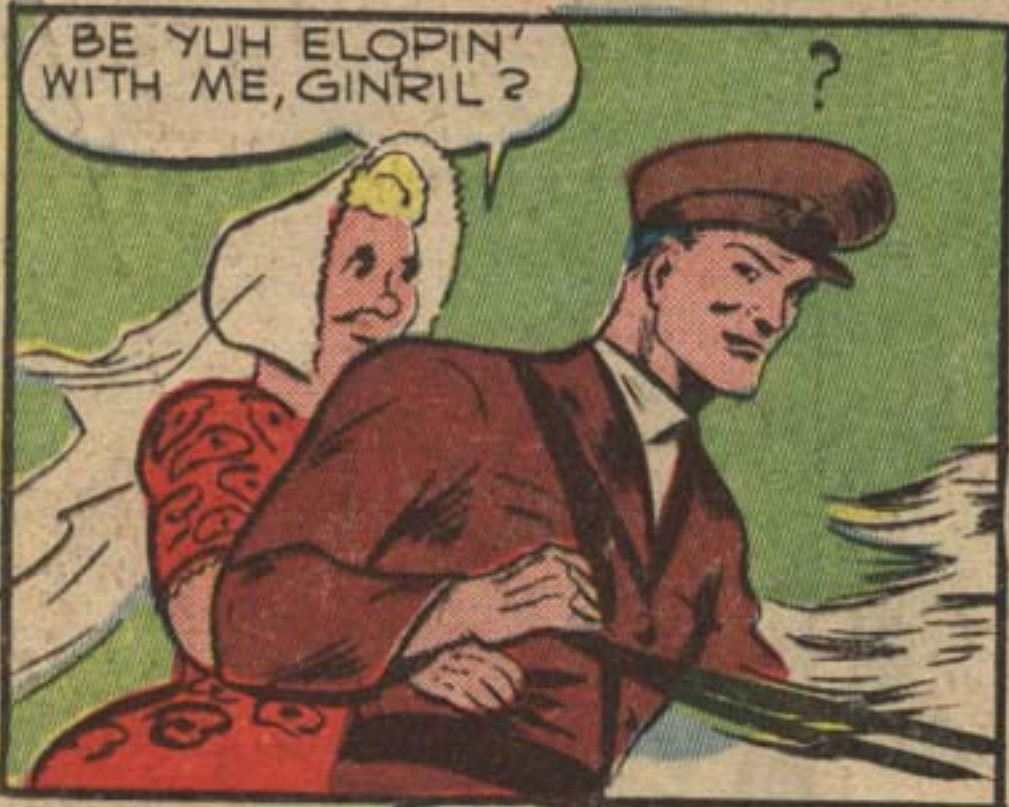
YUH, CAINT GIT AWAY WITH THAT!



MEANWHILE - AT THE FIRING RANGE!

ALL RIGHT, LIEUTENANT, START FIRING!

YES, SIR!

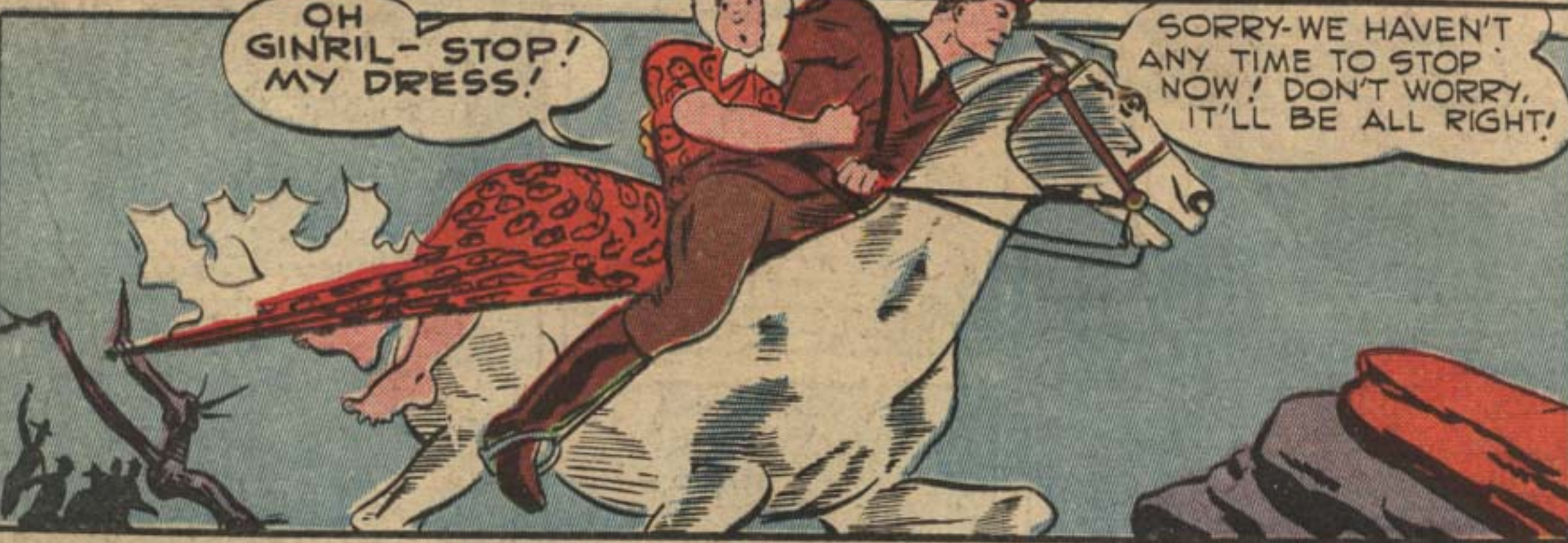


BE YUH ELOPIN' WITH ME, GINRIL?



COME ON! LET'S GO AFTER HIM!

WE'LL STOP HIM!



OH GINRIL - STOP! MY DRESS!

SORRY - WE HAVEN'T ANY TIME TO STOP NOW! DON'T WORRY, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!



TH' SKONK!

I NEVER THOUGHT THE LOOTINENT WOULD PULL A STUNT LIKE THIS!



AS THE ENRAGED MOUNTAINEERS TAKE OUT AFTER KORNELL - THE FIRST OF THE '75'S MAKES A DIRECT HIT ON THE SPOT THEY HAVE JUST VACATED!



AH TRIED TO TELL YA GINRIL, BUT YA WOULDN'T LISTEN!

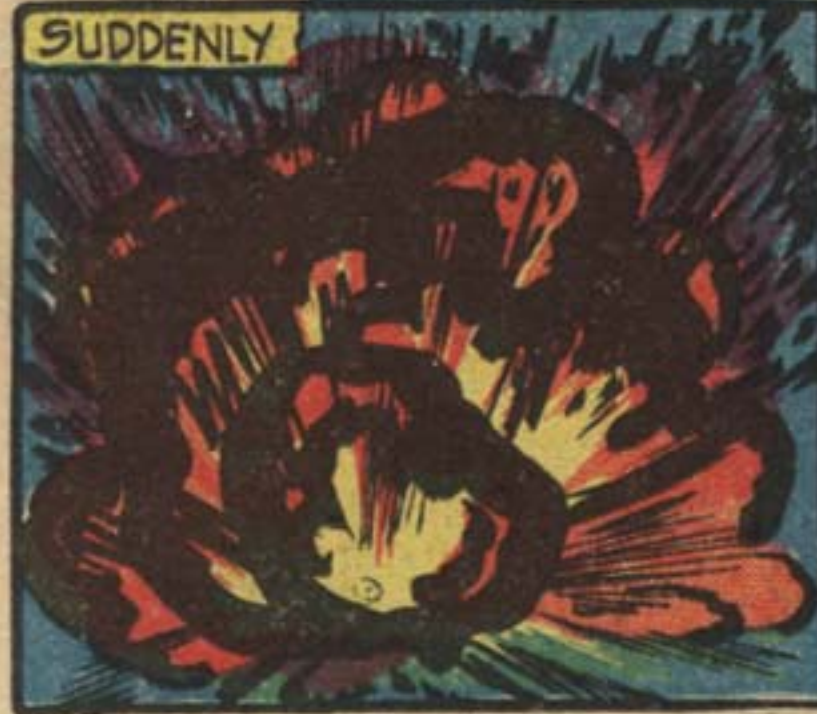
GULP- WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR DRESS?



OH WELL, WE'RE OUT OF DANGER NOW, ANYHOW!

WE GOT HIM!

THAR HE IS!

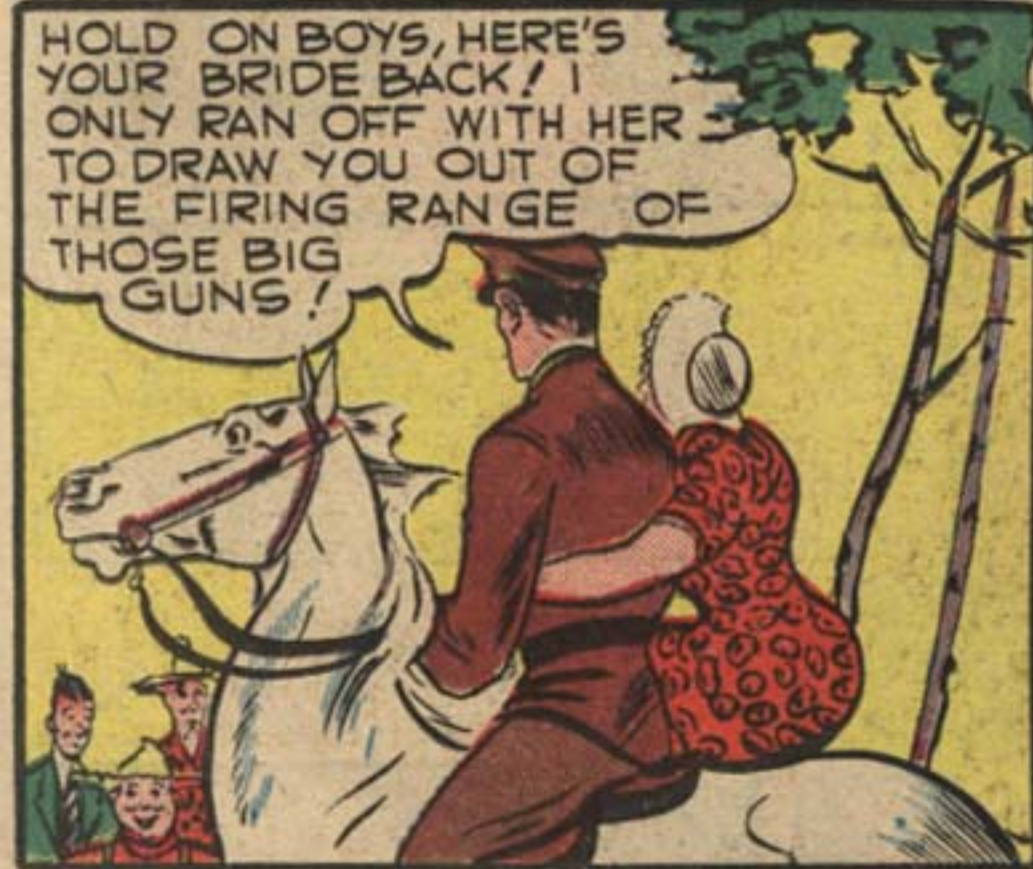


SUDDENLY



THEY'RE SHOOTIN' AT US!

WHAT'S THAT?



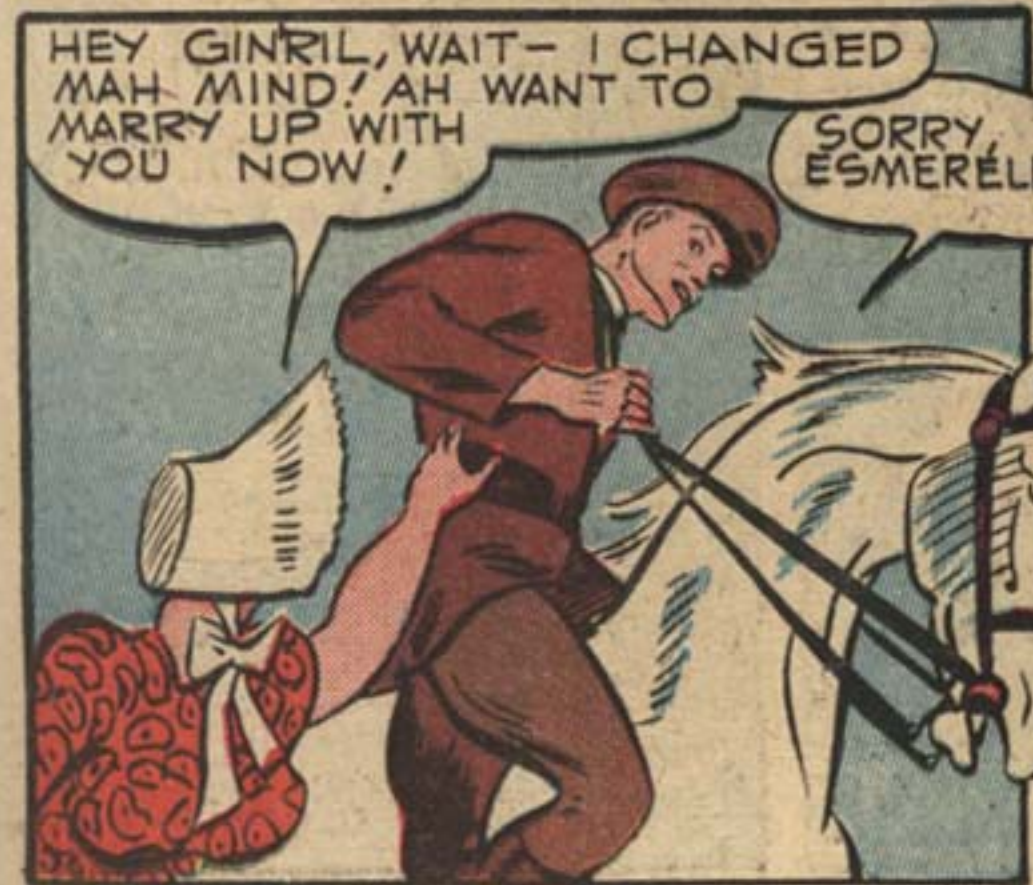
HOLD ON BOYS, HERE'S YOUR BRIDE BACK! I ONLY RAN OFF WITH HER TO DRAW YOU OUT OF THE FIRING RANGE OF THOSE BIG GUNS!



LUCIFER!

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD BREAK UP YOUR FEUD AND GET YOU OUT OF THERE!

ESMERELDA, HONEY! YOU'RE SAFE!



HEY GINRIL, WAIT- I CHANGED MAH MIND! AH WANT TO MARRY UP WITH YOU NOW!

SORRY, ESMERELDA.



-- I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COLONEL!

THE FIREFLY



IN THE EERIE LIGHT OF A FULL MOON, A STRANGE, DESERTED VESSEL SAILS ON THE CALM, GLASSLIKE SEA — A GHOST SHIP!



AS THE WEIRD LOOKING CRAFT COMES WITHIN VIEW OF A FREIGHTER....



THAT SHIP LOOKS AS IF IT'S BEEN THROUGH A MONSOON, AND NOBODY SEEMS TO BE ON BOARD!



WE'D BETTER NOT, CAPTAIN-THERE ARE STRANGE TALES ABOUT THE SHIPS THAT PLY THESE WATERS!

CHANGE YOUR COURSE, PILOT! WE'LL SEE WHAT'S WRONG ON THAT CRAFT!



I'VE HEARD OF SHIPS THAT CAME TOO CLOSE TO SPOOKY LOOKING VESSELS LIKE THAT ONE. AND NOT A SAILOR WAS LEFT ALIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT.

RUBBISH! JUST SOME MORE OF THOSE SAILOR YARNS.

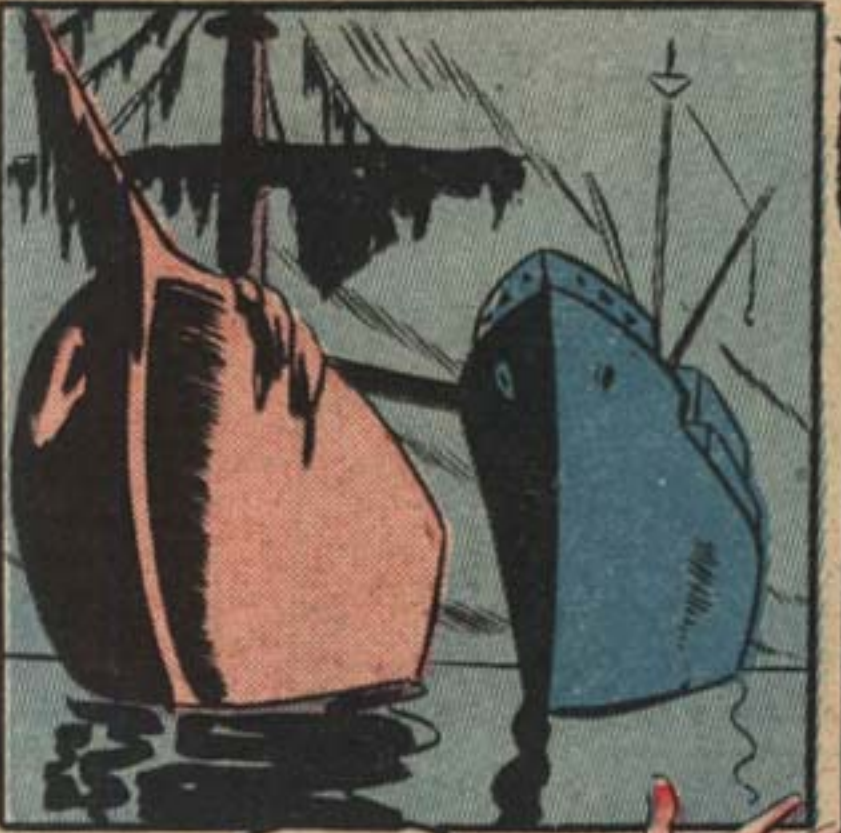


NOW STOP THIS NONSENSE AND OBEY ORDERS- STEER FOR THAT SHIP AT ONCE!



GET THAT GANGPLANK ACROSS NOW!

AYE AYE SIR!



SUDDENLY A SWARM OF FEROCIOUS RATS DASHES ACROSS THE GANGPLANK

A BIZARRE CREATURE PIPES A TUNE WHICH SENDS THE RATS ON THEIR MUDEROUS VISIT- A PIED PIPER!



HELP!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES, MEN!





AAGH! THERE ARE MILLIONS OF THEM!

QUICK MEN, KILL THEM-OR THEY'LL EAT US ALIVE!



HELP! HELP! I CAN'T GET THEM OFF ME!



IN HIS CABIN BELOW, HARLEY HUDSON, THE FREIGHTER'S LONE PASSENGER, COMPLETES ONE OF HIS EXPERIMENTS...

I THINK THIS TIME I HAVE MY ACID EXPLOSIVE!



SOMEBODY ON DECK IS CRYING FOR HELP!



AS THE FIREFLY, HE DASHES OUT -



GREAT SCOTT... MAN-EATING RATS - ATTACKING THE SAILORS!



HURRY MEN! BRING MEAT UP FROM BELOW!



THE RATS WILL GO FOR THIS MEAT - THEN I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!



BOY, LOOK AT THEM GO FOR THAT MEAT! I'LL BET THEY HAVEN'T EATEN IN A MONTH!

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO ENJOY THIS FEAST LONG EITHER!



THE FIREFLY HURLS HIS ACID EXPLOSIVE INTO THE MIDST OF THE VORACIOUS RATS!

SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR DESSERT!



ABANDON SHIP! THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!

LOOK OUT! MORE OF THEM ARE COMING OVER THE GANG PLANK!



THE FIREFLY GOES OVER THE SIDE



NOW I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THIS SHIP AND SEE WHERE THE RATS COME FROM...



LUCKY THIS ROPE WAS HANGING LOOSE!



A PIPER! IT'S HIS MUSIC THAT'S CONTROLLING THE RATS!

THIS'LL SPOIL YOUR PIPING FOR AWHILE!

UGH!



HA! HA!
NOTHING SHALL INTERFERE WITH THE MUSIC OF THE PIED PIPER!

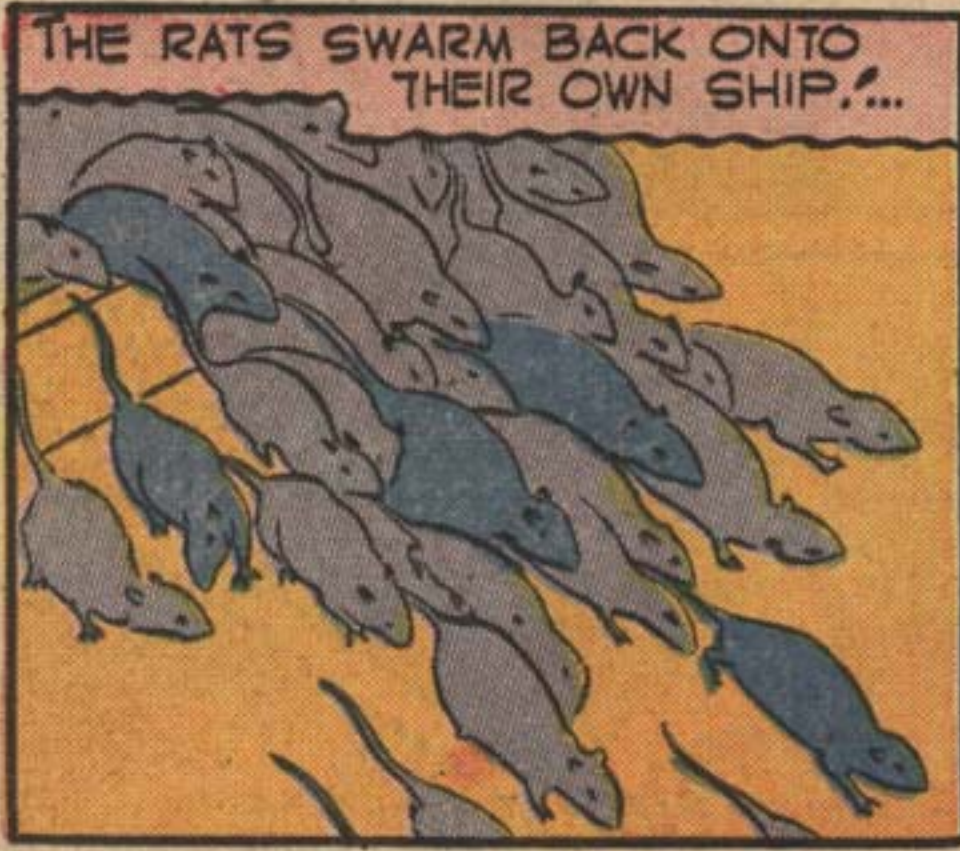
THE RATS FINISH THE MEAT ON THE FREIGHTER...



AND NOT HEARING THE PIPER'S MUSIC ANYMORE, THEY RETURN TO THE GHOST SHIP!



THOUGH YOU HAD ME, DIDN'T YOU?



THE RATS SWARM BACK ONTO THEIR OWN SHIP!...



..AND ATTACK THE PROSTRATE PIPER!

MY PIPE!
MY PIPE!

TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW!



KEROSENE!
JUST WHAT I NEED!



I HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH HERE TO GET A GOOD FIRE GOING!



THAT KERO-
SENE SURE
MAKES A
BLAZE!

THE PIPER AND THE RATS
ARE CAUGHT IN THE FLAMES!

THE FIREFLY GOES
OVER THE SIDE
AGAIN



HEY!
WAIT
FOR ME!

HOLD YOUR
OARS. THERE'S
A MAN IN THE
WATER!



A LIGHTHOUSE!
WE'RE IN
LUCK!

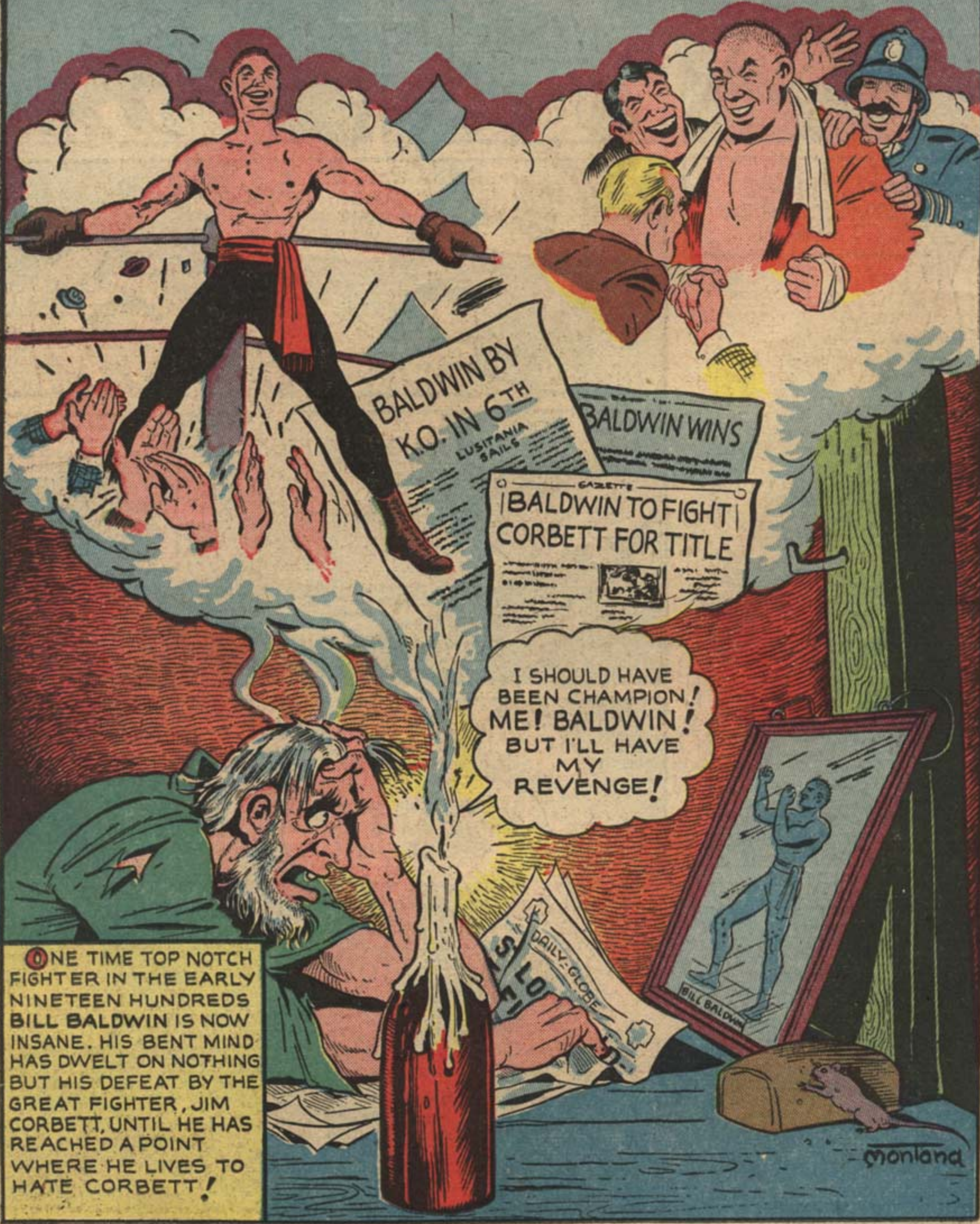
FROM THE LIGHT-
HOUSE REEF, THE
FIREFLY AND CREW
WATCH THE PIED PIPER'S
BURNING SHIP SETTLE
INTO THE WATER



THERE SHE GOES,
PIPER, RATS AND
GHOST SHIP!

GOOD
RIDDANCE!

THE ST. LOUIS KID



BALDWIN BY
K.O. IN 6TH
LUSITANIA
SAILS

BALDWIN WINS

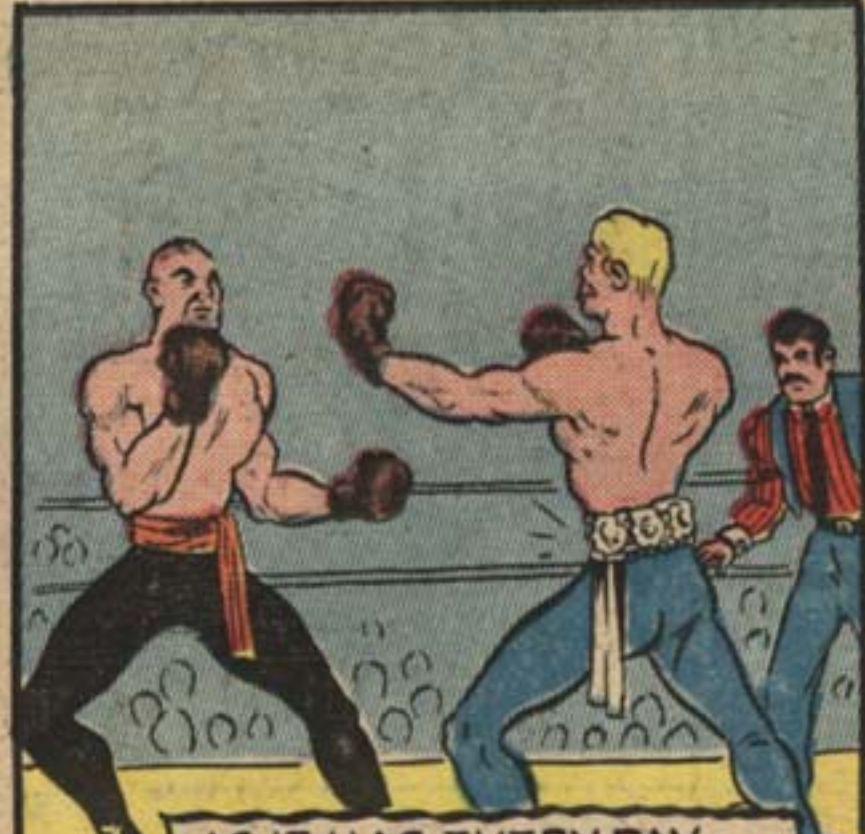
GAZETTE
BALDWIN TO FIGHT
CORBETT FOR TITLE

I SHOULD HAVE
BEEN CHAMPION!
ME! BALDWIN!
BUT I'LL HAVE
MY
REVENGE!

ONE TIME TOP NOTCH FIGHTER IN THE EARLY NINETEEN HUNDREDS BILL BALDWIN IS NOW INSANE. HIS BENT MIND HAS DWELT ON NOTHING BUT HIS DEFEAT BY THE GREAT FIGHTER, JIM CORBETT, UNTIL HE HAS REACHED A POINT WHERE HE LIVES TO HATE CORBETT!

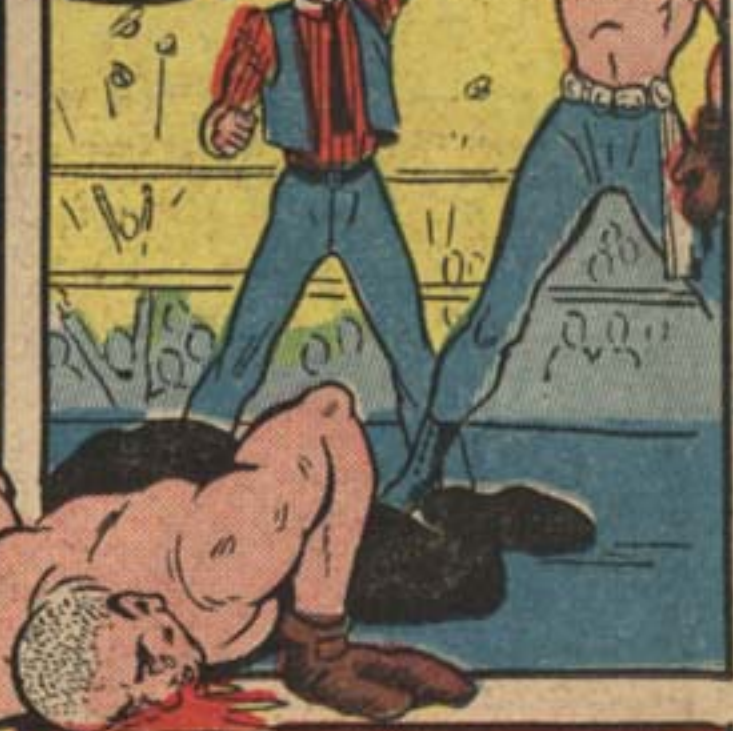
monland

IT WAS A LUCKY PUNCH THAT DID IT! I HAD CORBETT ALL SET UP WHEN HE LANDED IT! I SHOULD'VE BEEN CHAMPION-ME, BALDWIN!



AS IT HAS EVERY DAY - BALDWIN'S MIND DRIFTS BACK TO WHEN HE SQUARED OFF WITH THE GREAT CORBETT---

THE WINNAH! AND STILL HEAVY-WEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD - JIM CORBETT!



WHEN CORBETT KNOCKED BALDWIN OUT IN THE 26TH ROUND OF THAT BLOODY BATTLE... THE KIND OF FIGHT FOUND ONLY IN THE EARLY NINETEEN HUNDREDS... HE LITERALLY KNOCKED HIM OUT OF THE BOXING PROFESSION. BALDWIN'S FAILURE REDUCED HIM TO AN AIMLESS BUM---



AND STAY OUT!

ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF BALDWIN? YA BEEN HOUSE SPARRING PARTNER FOR A WEEK WIT' OUT REST! TAKE IT EASY - YA LOOK TERRIBLE!



DID YOU GUYS SEE BALDWIN? WE LAYED HIM DOWN TO COME TO AND NOW HE'S GONE!

I TOLD YA YA SHOULDN'T A HIT 'IM SO HARD, SPIKE!

A-A-A FERGET IT. DEM PUNCH-DRUNK BUMS ARE A DIME-A-DOZEN!



GUB-GUB-CORBETT-CORBETT BEAT ME! O-O-OH-HEAD HURTS-KILL HIM-I'LL KILL-KILL-KILL!



NOW-40 YEARS LATER
BALDWIN SEES A PICTURE
OF JIM JENNINGS WHO
ALSO HAS BLONDE HAIR.
IT'S HIM! IT'S HIM! JIM
CORBETT, HEH, HEH, NOW
I'LL GET HIM!



NOW, LET'S LOOK IN ON JIM
JENNINGS THE ST. LOUIS
KID.



OFF IN A CORNER,
BRAGGING AS USUAL-
POP MALLOY!

SO I FIRE ONCE-
TWICE! AND WHEN
THE SMOKE CLEARS
THE DEER IS STILL
STANDING.



I FIRE AGAIN! WHAM! AND
THIS TIME WHEN THE SMOKE
CLEARED HE WAS GONE-SO
I WALKED UP AND WOULD
YOU BELIEVE IT THERE
WERE THREE DEER
PILED ONE ON
TOP OF THE
OTHER!



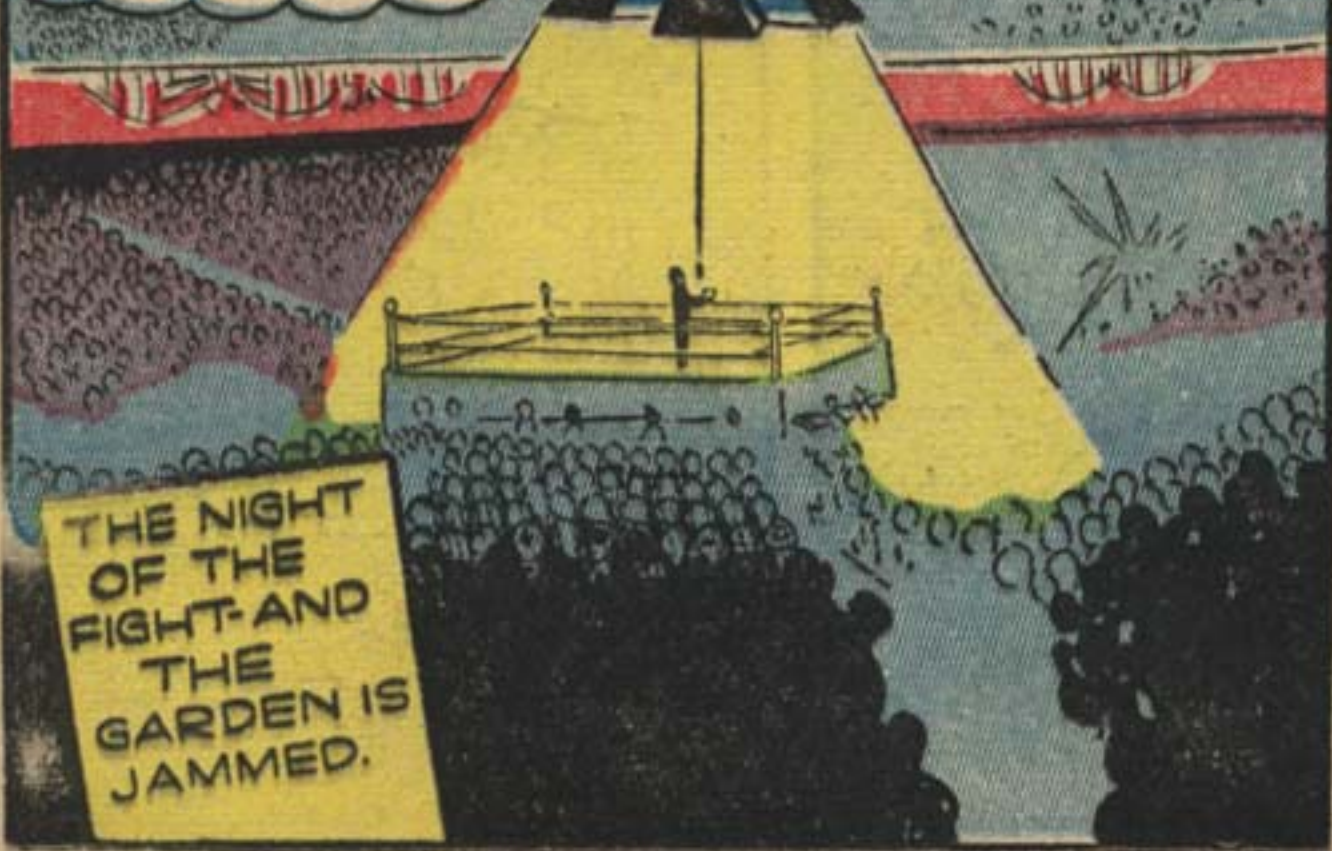
COME ON
JIM, HIT IT
HARDER!
HARDER!
HARDER!



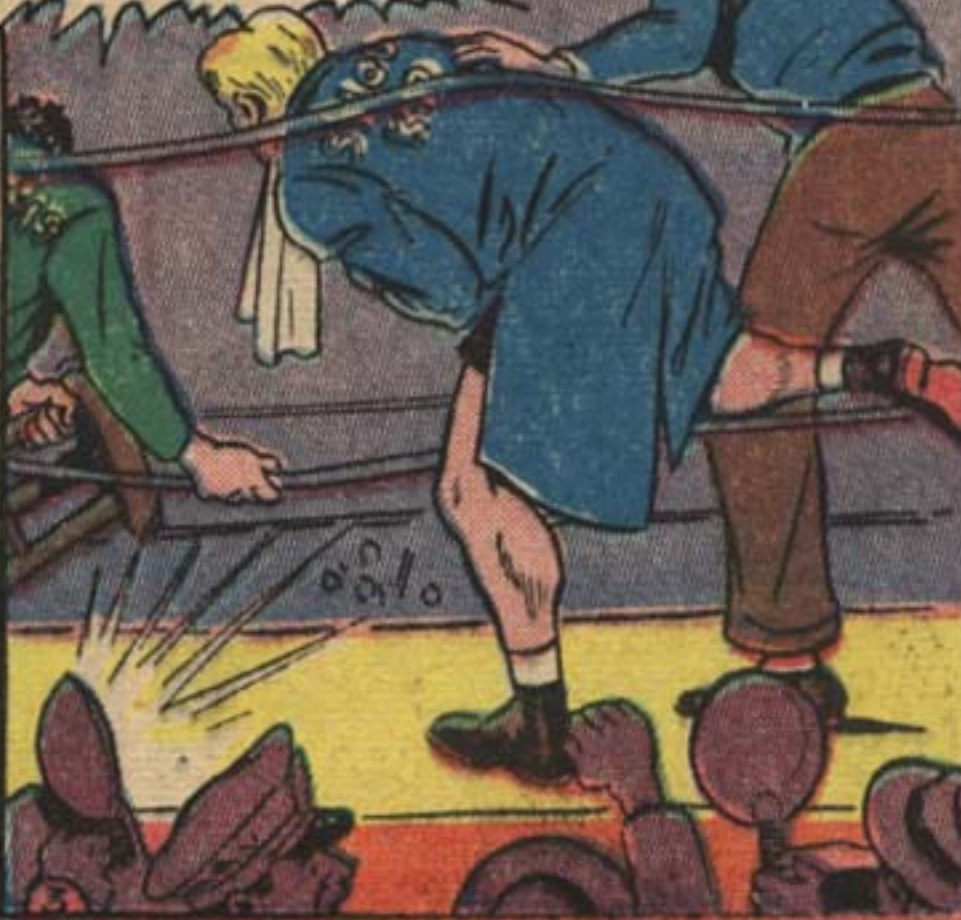
POP
GETS
HIS
WISH.



LADE-E-ES AN
GENTLEMEN THE
MAIN EVENT OF
THE EVENING.



AND HERE
COMES THE
ST. LOUIS
KID.





LISTEN! I'M NOT GONNA THROW YOU OUT AGAIN! YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A TICKET!



THAT GUY IS BATTY! HE THINKS JIM CORBETT IS STILL FIGHTING!



PLEASE MR! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! I MUST SEE JIM FIGHT!

SURE SURE I'LL TAKE YOU IN BUD! POOR GUY, BROKE PROBABLY.



HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE EDDIE, LET HIM IN!

O.K. MR. MALLOY!



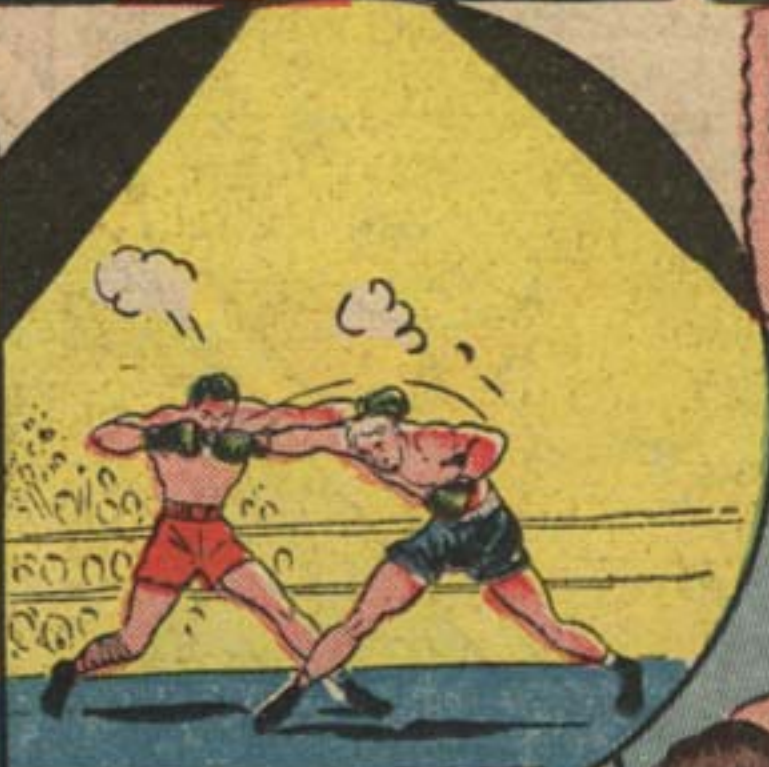
BUT ONCE INSIDE.



O-O-O-O-W ALL RIGHT! IT WAS ONLY ONE DEER!

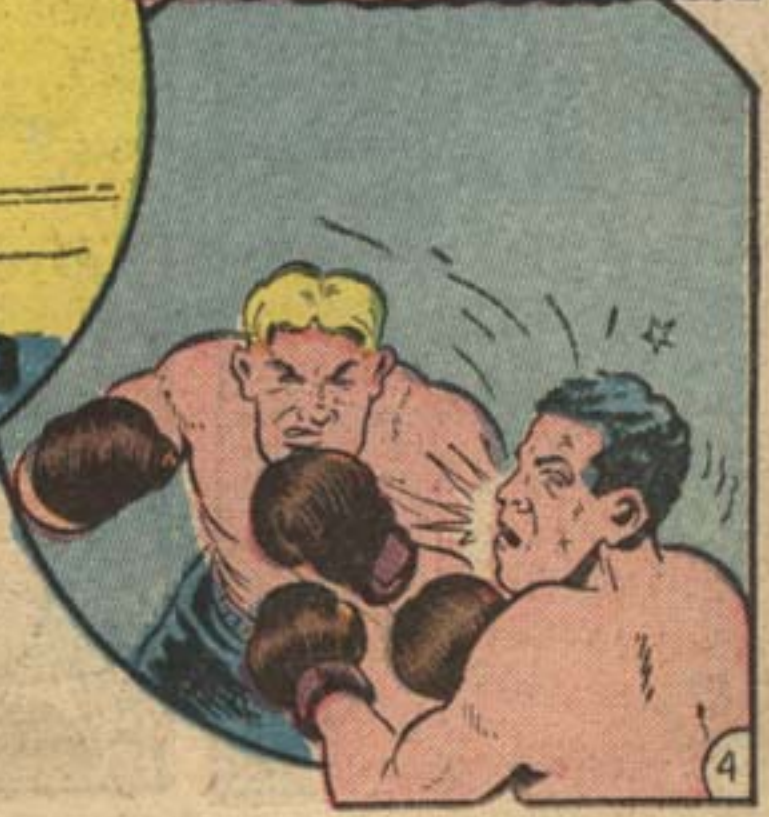


NOW BOYS I WANT YOUSE TO KEEP THIS A NICE CLEAN FIGHT-PROTECT YOURSELVES AT ALL TIMES-BREAK OUT OF THE CLINCHES CLEAN. AFTER A KNOCKDOWN GO TO A NEUTRAL CORNER! SHAKE HANDS AND COME OUT FIGHTING.



BROZEK MISSED WITH A SHORT LEFT AND THE KID LANDS A HARD RIGHT TO THE JAW!

OH, THIS BROZEK BOY IS TAKING A TERRIFIC BEATING. THESE SCRANTON FIGHTERS CAN SURE TAKE IT.





ROUND 3

GO ON IN AND FINISH HIM THIS ROUND.



DON'T MOVE - ANYBODY! I GOT YA NOW - CORBETT!
HA HA HA

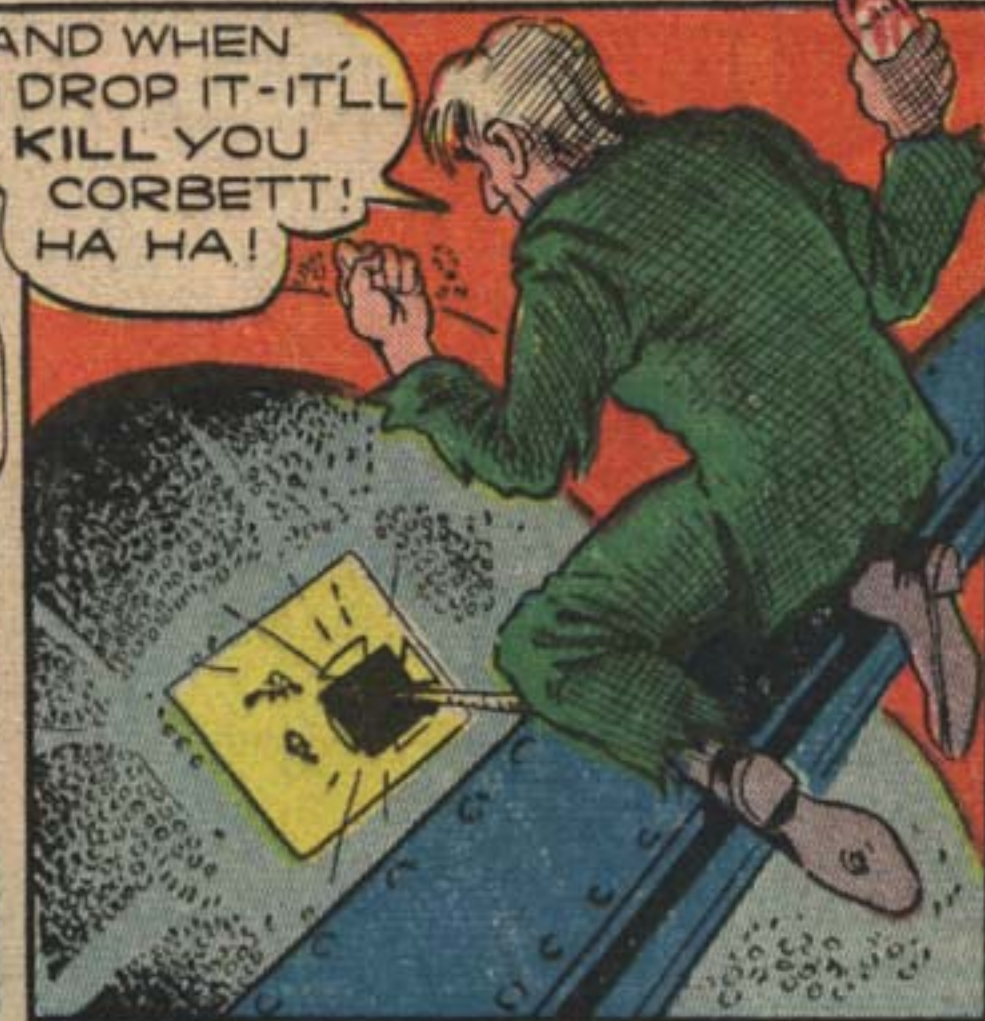


LOOK! A MADMAN!

UP ON THAT STEEL GIRDER.



I'VE GOT A BOTTLE OF NITRO GLYCERINE HERE!



AND WHEN I DROP IT - IT'LL KILL YOU CORBETT!
HA HA!



HEY USHER, DID YOU SEE A GUY WITH A BEARD.

YEAH, HE WENT TO THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S CAT WALK.



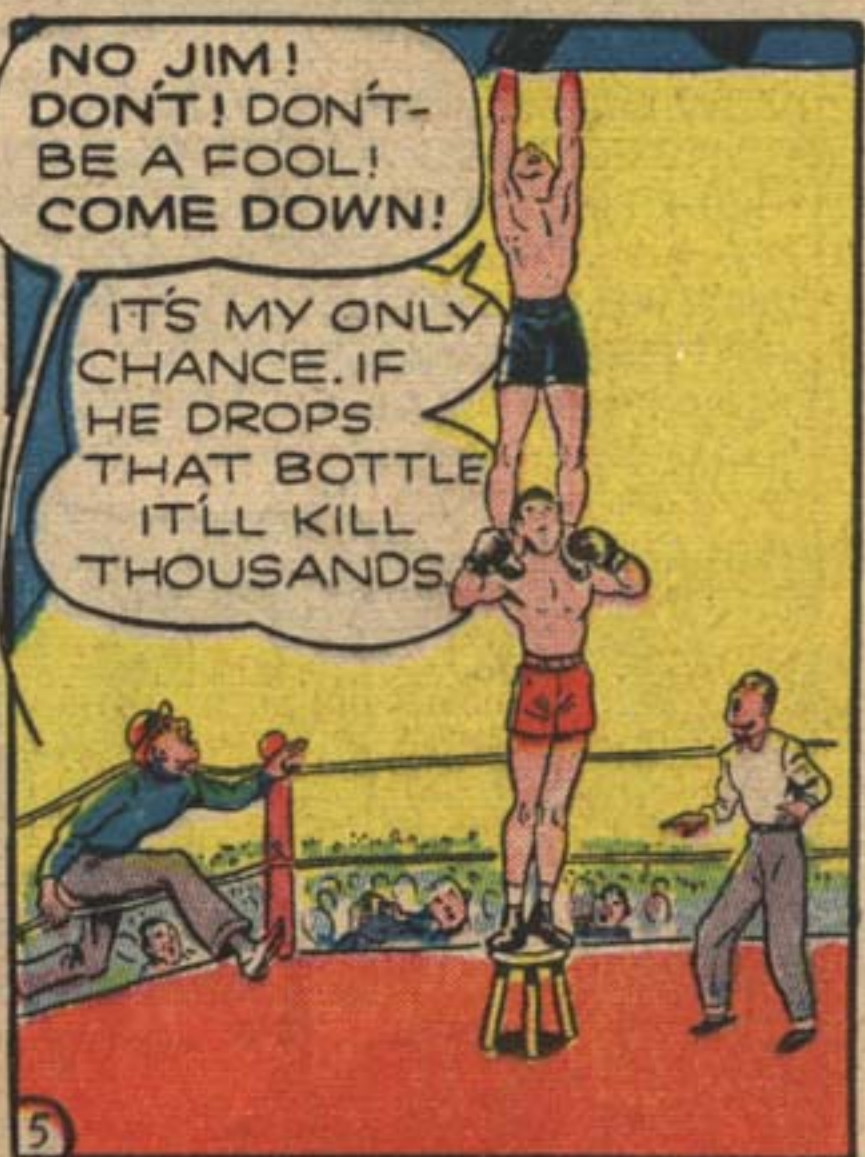
I'LL GO OUT AND GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND.

ONLY PHOTOS ALLOWED ON THIS CATWALK



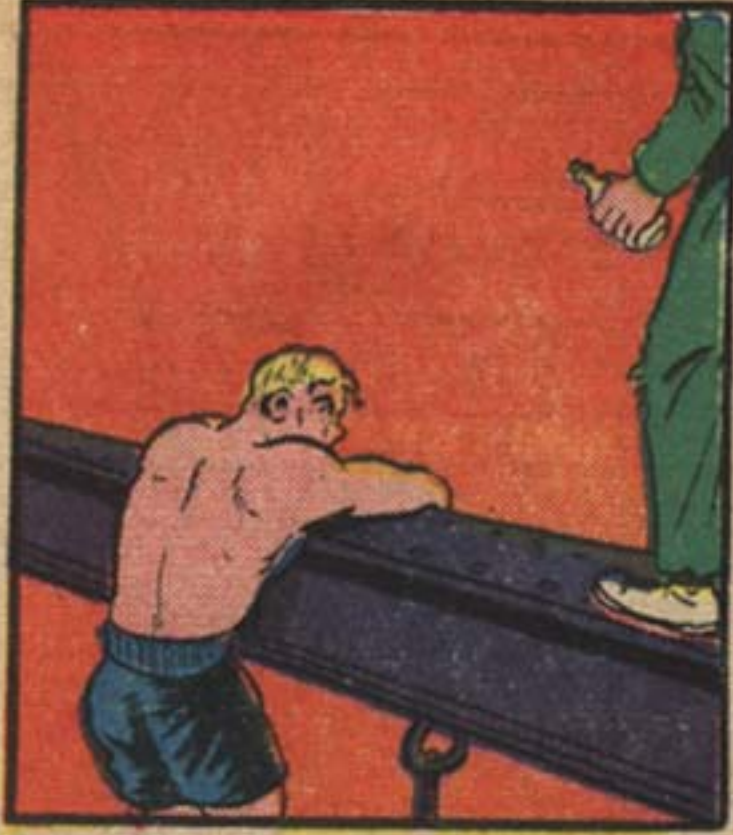
WAIT! YOU WANT TO KILL ME DON'T YOU? WELL - LET ME COME UP THERE - THEN YOU CAN KILL ME!

YEAH, YEAH - THAT'S RIGHT - I GUESS. COME ON UP CORBETT!

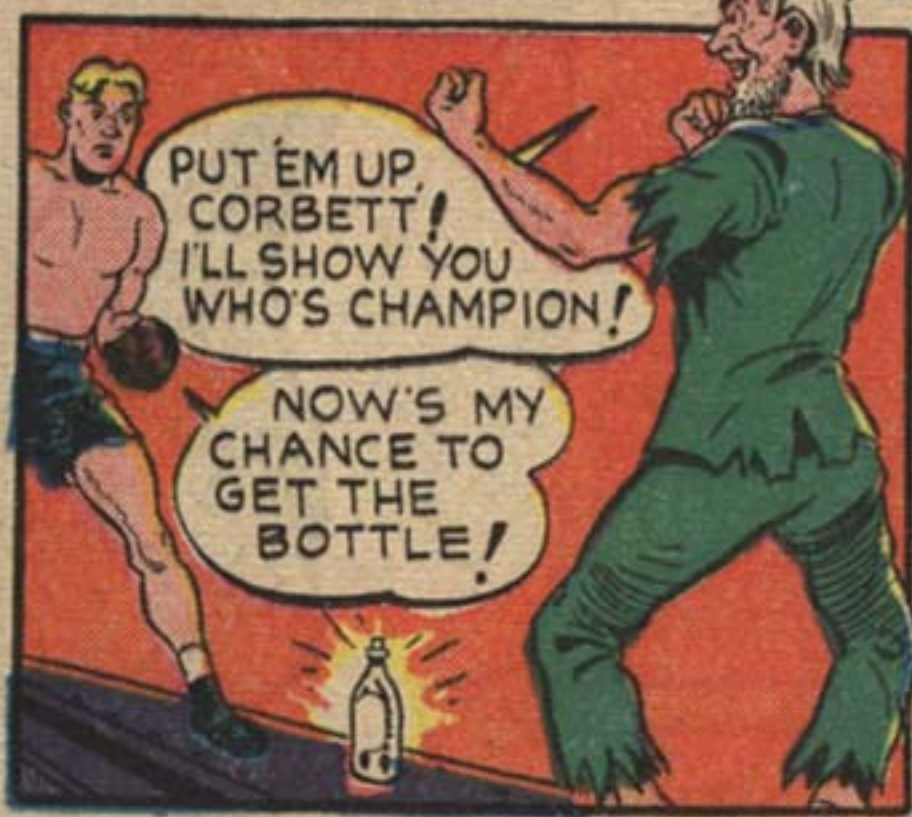


NO JIM! DON'T! DON'T - BE A FOOL! COME DOWN!

IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE. IF HE DROPS THAT BOTTLE IT'LL KILL THOUSANDS.



THERE'S THE GUY! - JIM WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE? LOOKOUT FOR THAT GUY- HE HIT ME ON THE HEAD!



PUT 'EM UP, CORBETT! I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S CHAMPION!

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO GET THE BOTTLE!



LOOKOUT! THE BOTTLE!



AND OLD BALDWIN ALSO GOES TUMBLING OFF.



BUT THE NITRO GLYCERINE LANDS IN POP'S PANTS ---



THAT GUY'S LUCKY HE LANDED IN THE CROWD!

GET AN AMBU-LANCE!



AT THE HOSPITAL - HE'LL BE WELL AGAIN. THAT BRAIN SPECIALIST YOU HAD FLOWN HERE RELEASED THE PRESSURE ON HIS BRAIN THAT RESULTED FROM THAT BLOW FORTY YEARS AGO. RUSHING THAT SPECIALIST HERE WAS A NOBLE GESTURE!



I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, MR. JENNINGS - NOR HOW TO SAY HOW SORRY - I ---

FORGET IT, BILL, AND WHEN YOU GET WELL I'VE GOT A NICE SOFT JOB FOR YOU AT MY CAMP!

MORE THRILLING ADVENTURES OF THE ST. LOUIS KID APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **TOP NOTCH COMICS**

JACKPOT COMICS NO.4

PROUDLY ANNOUNCES A NEW ADDITION TO ITS FAMILY.....
..Archie.. THIS ISSUE IS ON SALE RIGHT NOW!



WINGS JOHNSON

OF THE Air Patrol

"V" FOR VICTORY. THROUGHOUT EUROPE, THIS STIRRING CRY RALLIES THE OPPRESSED NATIONS, WHERE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN RISK DEATH IN UNDERGROUND MOVEMENTS! IN A DISMAL CELLAR ON THE COAST OF NORWAY, TWO MEN CROUCH OVER A SECRET RADIO - SUDDENLY, THERE'S A KNOCK...

QUICK, GRAB YOUR GUN! IT MAY BE THE GESTAPO!

I HOPE IT'S THE BRITISH FLIER!



IF IT'S THE GESTAPO, I'LL SHOOT FIRST AND TALK LATER!

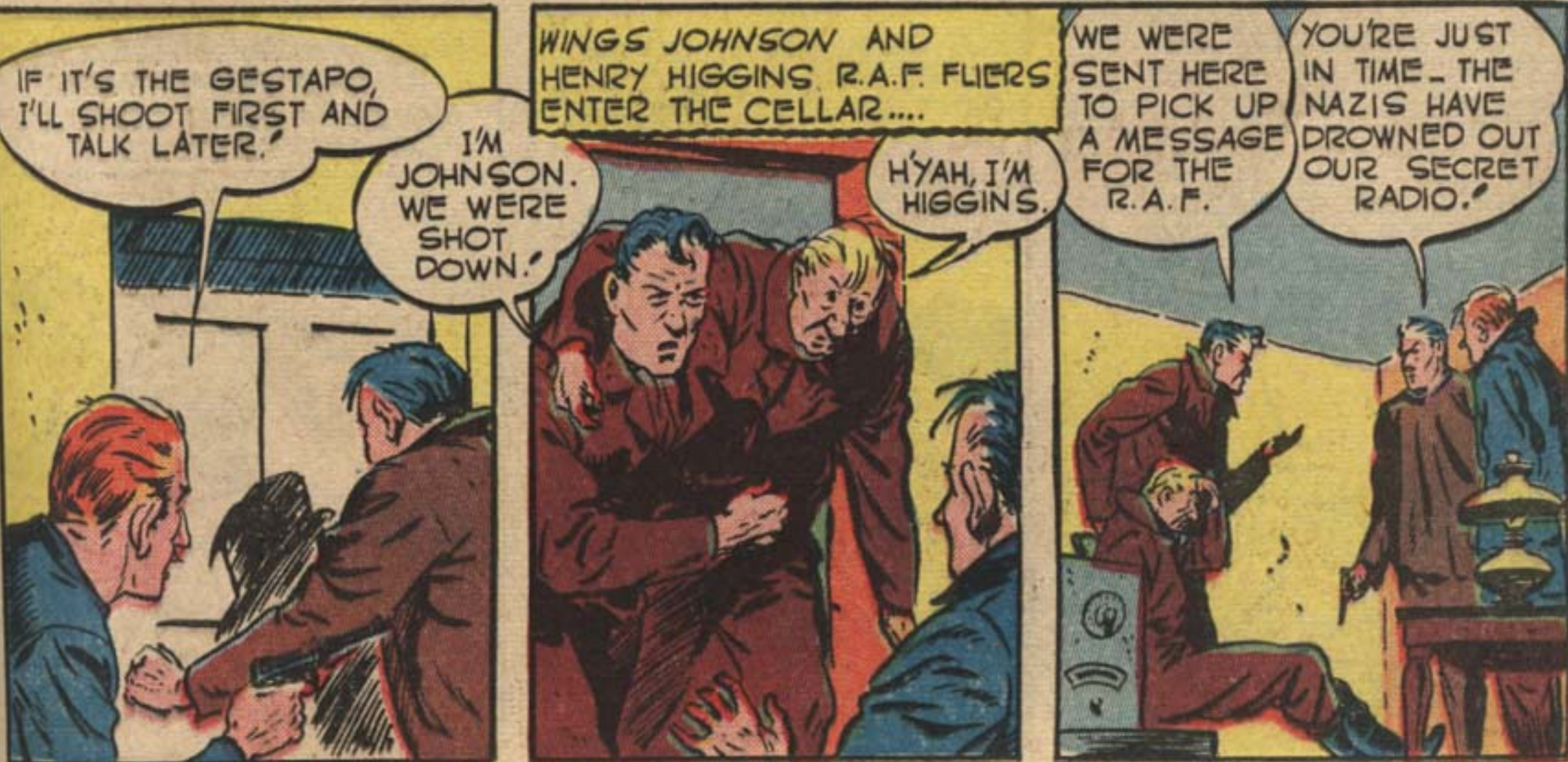
I'M JOHNSON. WE WERE SHOT DOWN!

WINGS JOHNSON AND HENRY HIGGINS, R.A.F. FLIERS ENTER THE CELLAR....

H'YAH, I'M HIGGINS.

WE WERE SENT HERE TO PICK UP A MESSAGE FOR THE R.A.F.

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME - THE NAZIS HAVE DROWNED OUT OUR SECRET RADIO!



THE MESSAGE YOU'RE TAKING BACK REVEALS THE NAZI AMMUNITION DEPOTS IN THIS AREA—YOUR SQUADRON MUST BOMB THEM AT ONCE!



IT'S A MOST UNUSUAL MESSAGE. BUT, FIRST, YOU WILL GET INTO PEASANT CLOTHES. GOOD IDEA. WE'LL TRY TO GRAB A HEINIE PLANE.



GEE, WHATTA FIT! YES, YOU'LL LEARN IT HERE AND WHISTLE IT AT HEAD-QUARTERS. YOU MEAN THE MESSAGE IS A SONG?



YOU HAVE IT NOW—EACH NOTE REVEALS A NAZI BASE. I GOT IT. COME, HIG-GINS, LET'S SHOVE OFF.



THERE'S A GERMAN AIR-FIELD JUST OVER THE HILL. GOOD LUCK! THANKS, WE'LL NEED IT!



NOW TO GRAB A PLANE— AND IF WE FAIL ... THEN THIS 'ERE SONG WILL BE A FUNERAL DIRGE!



THEY FIND A NAZI AIR-DROME HIDDEN IN THE VALLEY.

LOOK, HENRY, NAZI CRATES ALL SET TO TAKE OFF.

WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FOR?



BUT, GEE, WINGS—WE CAN'T SPLIT UP—WE'RE PALS. NOW DO AS YOU'RE TOLD—I'LL DISTRACT THEIR ATTENTION. YOU GRAB A BUS. I'LL FOLLOW.



WHILE HENRY APPROACHES A WAITING SHIP, WINGS MAKES A BOLD DASH FOR THE AIRDOME



SUDDENLY, A SENTRY STEPS OUT OF THE SHADOWS!

OH, OH! COME ON, WINGSIE. LET'S GO!

VOT ISS!



HOLLER, CHUM, THE LOUDER, THE BETTER!

OOWW! ACHTUNG KAMERAD!

CLUNK



THE REMAINING SENTRIES HURRY TO THEIR FALLEN COMRADE!

SAY, THIS GUY'S REALLY GOT PALS!

DISS VAY!



THERE'S NO ONE AROUND! NOW'S MY CHANCE!



I GOTTA STOP THOSE GUYS BEFORE THEY GET WINGSIE!



HENRY, SWINGS THE SHIP RIGHT ABOUT AND OPENS UP WITH THE FORWARD GUN!...

DOWN GET DOWN!

AHHR!



AS HENRY HOLDS THE NAZIS, WINGS RUNS FOR A NEARBY SHIP!

UP AND AWAY, BUT IN NAZI PLANES!



THANKS FOR SAVING ME, PAL! NOW I'LL HOLD EM OFF!



AS HENRY SPEEDS AWAY, WINGS BANKS TO BATTLE A GERMAN PATROL ...



WELL, THERE'S ONE LESS FOR HIGGINS TO WORRY ABOUT - BUT I'M STILL IN A SPOT.



OMIGOSH! POOR WINGS! I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HIM BUT THEM'S MY ORDERS.



THE NAZIS, CLOSE IN, FORCING WINGS DOWNWARD.



WELL, AT LEAST HENRY GOT AWAY - BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MY GOOSE IS COOKED!



THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE WATER OVER THERE! IT'S EITHER A SUB OR... HOLY MACK - IT'S A "SAFETY ISLAND" AND... THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY AFTER ALL!



COLD AND EXHAUSTED, WINGS CLIMBS ABOARD ENGLAND'S NEWEST DEVICE FOR DOWNED AIRMEN....



MEANWHILE, A SHIVERING HIGGINS REACHES HIS HOME BASE...

H. H. HEY
C. C. CAPTAIN,
L. L. L. LISSSEN!



COME, COME MAN, WHERE'S JOHNSON? WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?
S. S. SIR! I'M T. T. TRYING TO BRRR! WINGS IS. IS. OOH! I'M C. C. COLD!



THE POOR CHAP'S GONE BALMY. WHISTLING AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
WHEE-WHOOSH GOSH. T. THAT'S THE M. M. M MESSAGE!



I GOT IT. THE MESSAGE IS A NORSE TUNE - WELL, OUT WITH IT!

WHEE-WHEE-WHOOSH - I CAN'T! MY LIPS ARE FROZEN!



SUDDENLY, FROM THE RADIO COMES THE CLEAR WHISTLING NOTES OF THE NORSE SONG!

T. T. THAT'S IT! THAT'S WINGSIE! HE'S ALIVE!
SAFETY ISLAND!



USING THE SAFETY ISLAND'S TINY RADIO - WINGS RELAYS THE MUSICAL MESSAGE...



GEE! WINGS S. S. SAVED MY NECK AGAIN!
DECODE IT AT ONCE, CAPTAIN - WE MUST RAID BEFORE DARK!



HERE'S THE LOCATION OF THE NAZI BASES - TAKE OFF AT ONCE - CAPTAIN, PICK UP JOHNSON ON THE WAY.



MINUTES LATER, R. A. F. PILOTS HEAD TOWARD NORWAY...



HIGGINS LEAVES THE SQUADRON TO PICK UP HIS MAROONED PAL...



H'YAH, HIGGINS, OLD PAL- THANKS FOR THE LIFT! GEE, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!

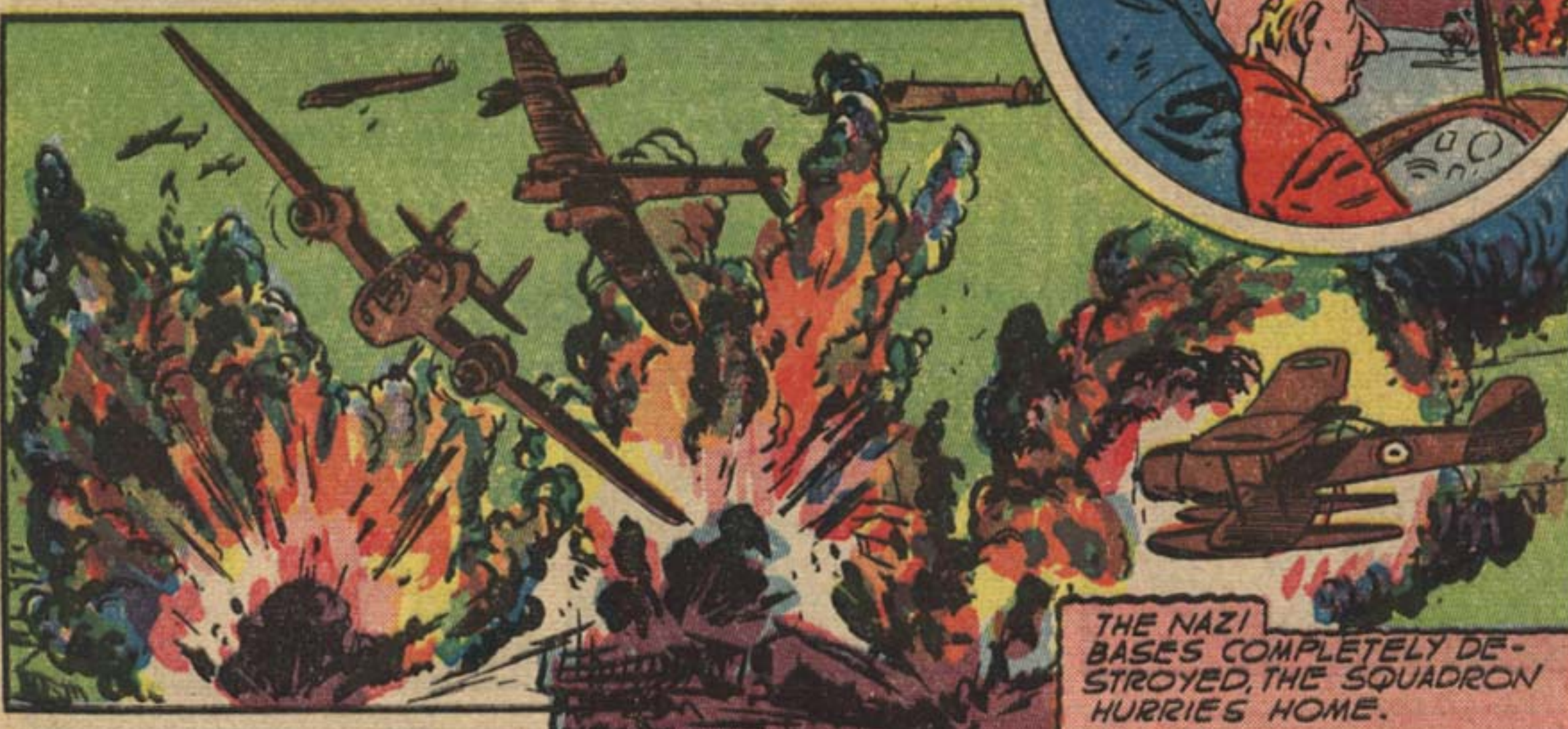


THEY RACE ONWARD TO CATCH UP WITH THE RAIDING SQUADRON...



WE'RE TOO LATE- THE RAID'S ALREADY UNDER WAY!

THERE GOES THEM BLOOMIN' NAZI BASES!



THE NAZI BASES COMPLETELY DESTROYED, THE SQUADRON HURRIES HOME.

WELL, OLD TOP, THE RAID'S A SUCCESS! THAT OUGHT TO MAKE YOU WHISTLE!

HUH, THE ONLY TIME I'LL EVER WHISTLE AGAIN WILL BE AT A BLONDE!



SAFETY ISLAND

CONTAINS RADIO, STOVE, FIRST AID, FOOD RATIONS, CAN HOLD SIX MEN. THEY ARE PLACED AT INTERVALS IN THE CHANNEL.



A BOAT MAKES REGULAR ROUNDS TO PICK UP SURVIVORS.

BOB PHANTOM

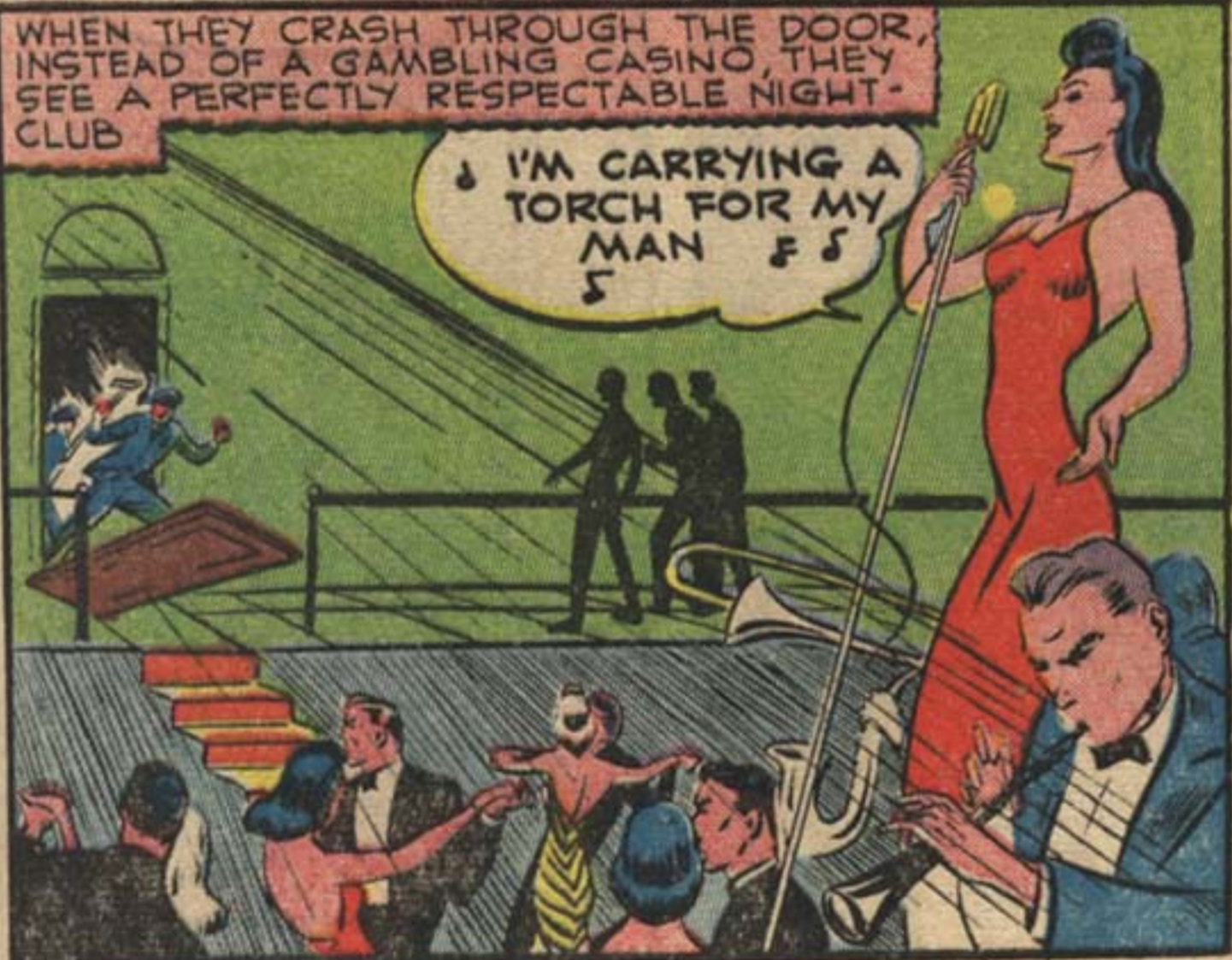
SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD

King



CAPTAIN CASEY AND HIS SQUAD OF BROADWAY POLICE, ONE NIGHT STAGE A SURPRISE RAID ON THE GAMBLING DEN OF BIG NICK, THE GREEK, AND...

WHEN THEY CRASH THROUGH THE DOOR, INSTEAD OF A GAMBLING CASINO, THEY SEE A PERFECTLY RESPECTABLE NIGHT-CLUB



I'M CARRYING A TORCH FOR MY MAN

BIG NICK APPROACHES CASEY SUAVELY -



HELLO, CAPTAIN! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BUST INTO MY JOINT THIS WAY - THE DOOR WAS OPEN!

OKAY, BIG NICK, YOU BEAT ME TO THE PUNCH THIS TIME, BUT I'LL GET YOU ONE OF THESE DAYS, BEFORE YOU CAN HIDE YOUR GAMBLING EQUIPMENT!

YOU KNOW, CASEY, I THINK YOU'D LOOK BETTER WITHOUT THOSE CAPTAIN STRIPES!



BLAST YE, BIG NICK! YOU'RE A BIG SHOT ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU'RE NOT BIG ENOUGH TO BREAK ME!

YOU NEVER CAN TELL, CAP! S'LONG!



CALL AGAIN, CASEY - WHEN YA WANTA COOL OFF - HAW, HAW!



I THINK MAYBE CASEY IS BOTHERIN' ME TOO MUCH THESE DAYS, BOYS! TAKE CARE OF HIM! YOU KNOW HOW!

WE GOTCHA, NICK!



LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

HIYA, CAP! I HEAR BIG NICK PULLED ANOTHER FAST ONE ON YOU!

SO YOU CAME HERE TO GLOAT, HUH WHITNEY?



GLOAT? HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING!

I CAN SAY PLENTY MORE, WHITNEY!



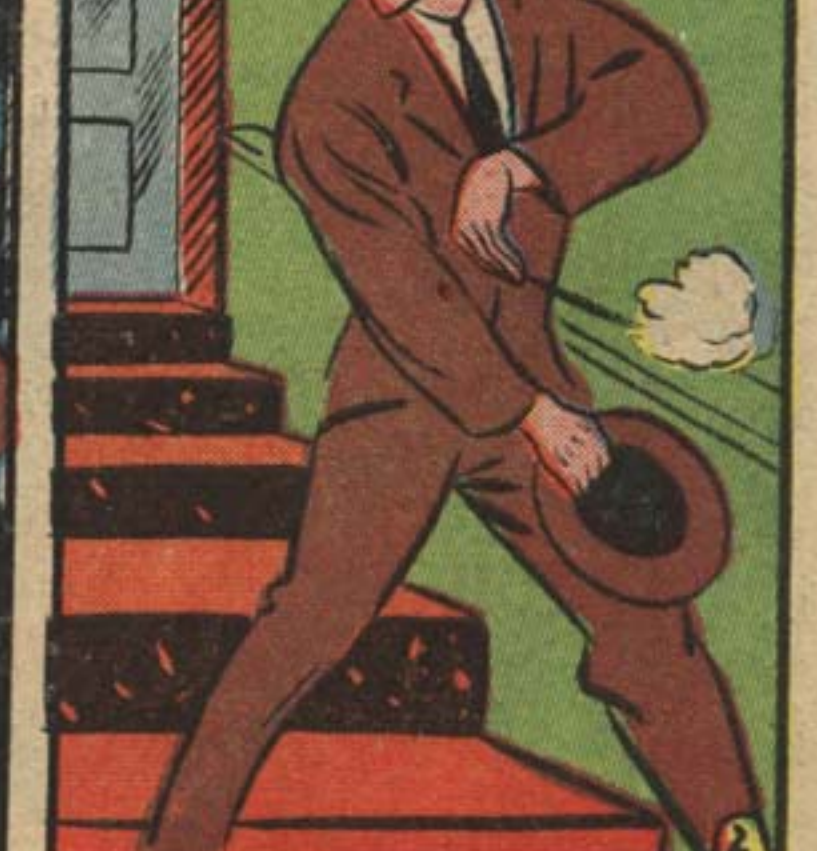
YOU'RE ALWAYS RIBBIN' ME IN YOUR COLUMN - THEN YOU COME AROUND SNOOPIN' FER NEWS - I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED BUT WHAT YOU'RE STOO LIN' FER BIG NICK -



NOW GET 'OUT - AND STAY OUT!



I DON'T THINK CAPTAIN CASEY LIKES ME!





THAT NIGHT- AS CASEY GOES HOME



LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER

WHAT'S THAT!.. CAPTAIN CASEY WAS FOUND DRUNK IN THE STREETS?.. WHO'S THIS?.. HELLO, HELLO!... HE'S HUNG UP!



THE COMMISSIONER HURRIES TO CASEY'S HOME

IT'S TRUE-COMMISSIONER, BOY- IS HE PICKLED!.. AND LOOKA ALL THAT DOUGH LYING AROUND!



COMMISSIONER- LOOK WHAT I FOUND-A NOTE! AND IT'S SIGNED BIG NICK, THE GREEK!

Keep playin' ball with us cap! There's more dough where this came from- Big Nick!



HMM! I'M BEGINNING TO SEE HOW BIG NICK HAS BEEN ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH SO MANY THINGS!



LATER

WUXTRY- CAPTAIN CASEY THROWN OFF FORCE!

NO PARKING 7AM TO 6PM EXCEPT ON SUNDAYS



HIYA, CAP! I JUST HEARD THE BAD NEWS!

SOME MORE GLOATIN'! HUH, WHITNEY.



NO CASEY! I THINK YOU'RE DUMB-BUT HONEST! I KNOW BIG NICK FRAMED YOU- I'M GOING TO TRY AND HELP YOU!

SANTA CLAUS COULDN'T HELP ME NOW!





NICK, THAT SPOOKY BOB PHANTOM'S GOT MY GOAT!

STOP WORRYING ABOUT HIM! HE'S GOT NOTHIN' ON US!



AND THEN, OUT OF THIN AIR- BOB PHANTOM AGAIN!



HELLO BOYS! WE HAVE A DATE- REMEMBER?

PLUG HIM- LEFTY!



LEFTY WOULDN'T DO THAT-WE'RE PALS! IN FACT, I LIKE HIM SO MUCH- I'M TAKING HIM WITH ME!



SO LONG, NICK! YOUR TURN WILL COME SOON!



NICK'S REMAINING HENCHMAN BRINGS THE CAR TO A QUICK STOP

I'M BLOWIN' TOWN! THAT PHANTOM'S TOO MUCH FOR ME!

HEY! WHERE YOU GOING, DUDE?



NO YOU DON'T-NO ONE RUNS OUT ON BIG NICK- AND LIVES!

D..DON'T SHOOT NICK!! I WAS ONLY KIDDIN'!



BUT I'M NOT, DUDE! C'MON, WE'RE GOING PLACES!

H... HELP!



AND NOW, THE FINGERS OF PANIC CLUTCH AT THE CRAVEN HEART OF THE BIG-SHOT GANGSTER, AND HE FLEES IN BLIND HASTE

I KNOW ONE PLACE WHERE EVEN BOB PHANTOM CAN'T GET IN!

SOLID STEEL WALLS! .. I HAD IT BUILT IN CASE THE COPS CAUGHT UP WITH ME! I'VE GOT ENOUGH SUPPLIES TO STAY HERE FOR A LONG TIME!



YOU WON'T NEED THEM, NICK!

G..GULP-YOU... HOW...?



IT'S YOUR TURN NOW, LEFTY! YOU'RE JOINING YOUR GANG! TOO BAD THERE'LL BE NO ONE AROUND TO ATTEND YOUR FUNERAL!



W.. WAIT, PHANTOM! YOU WIN - I'LL CLEAR CASEY! I'LL TELL 'EM ANYTHING! ANYTHING!



AND THAT'S GOING TO BE PLENTY ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU IN COLD STORAGE FOR A LONG TIME!

NEXT DAY

COME IN, CAPTAIN CASEY!

CAPTAIN? DID YOU SAY CAPTAIN, COMMISSIONER?



YES!.. I'M RE-INSTATING YOU WITH HONORS! PHANTOM BROUGHT BIG NICK TO ME LAST NIGHT.. AND HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING! HERE'S YOUR SHIELD!

(GULP) THANKS!



CASEY MAKES FOR THE STATION HOUSE

GREETINGS, YOUR MAJESTY- WE MISSED YOU - THE BOYS AND I!



WHY, SURE! I MISSED THAT DUMB IRISH FACE- AND THE GANG MISSED THEIR BEST CHECKER PLAYER!

GEE, DID YOU GUYS REALLY MISS ME?

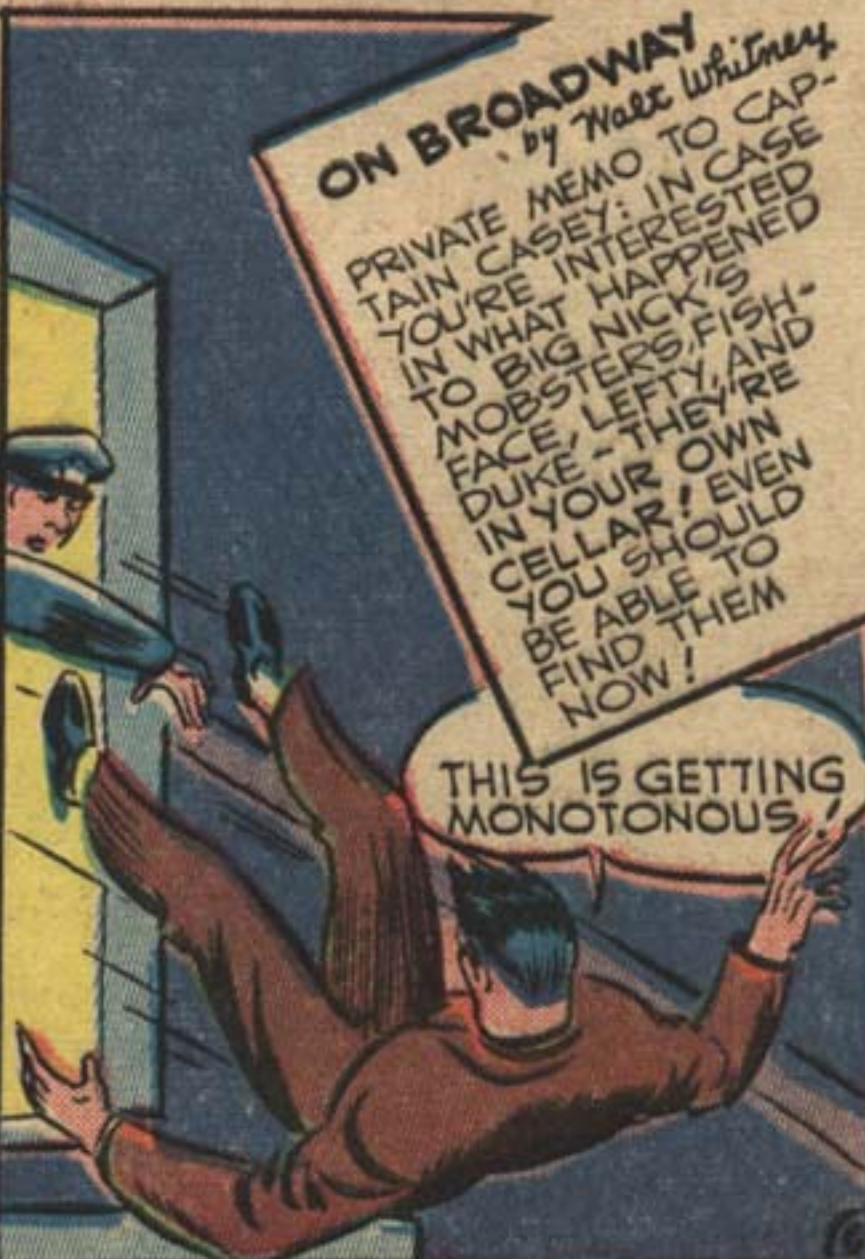
HUH?



ON BROADWAY by Walt Whitney

PRIVATE MEMO TO CAPTAIN CASEY: IN CASE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN WHAT HAPPENED TO BIG NICK'S MOBSTERS, FISH-FACE, LEFTY, AND DUKE - THEY'RE IN YOUR OWN CELLAR! EVEN YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND THEM NOW!

THIS IS GETTING MONOTONOUS!



KARDAK

THE MYSTIC
MAGICIAN



IT IS CHRISTMAS EVE ! KARDAK, THE MYSTIC MAGICIAN, IS MAKING HIS WAY ALONG A RAILROAD PLATFORM WHEN A HURTLING FIGURE KNOCKS HIM DOWN IN A FRANTIC ATTEMPT TO CATCH THE DEPARTING TRAIN !



GONE !
WHEW ! THAT GUY SURE WAS IN A HURRY !

SAY, WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE, OLD BOY ? ESPECIALLY ON CHRISTMAS EVE !



N-NOthing



HMM ! I NEVER SAW NOTHING UP-SET A MAN SO MUCH. I'M GOING TO STICK MY NOSE IN HIS BUSINESS !

DESPONDENTLY, HE MAKES HIS WAY TO AN OFFICE ---



THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT! I'M GOING TO TAKE IT!



GOODBYE, MY WIFE AND CHILD! PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND AND FORGIVE ME!



SUDDENLY, THE FIGURES IN THE PICTURE TAKE LIFE AND STEP OUT OF THEIR FRAME ---



GEORGE, DEAR, YOU MUSTN'T!

DADDY DON'T DO IT!

WH-WHA--

NO MATTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE WE FORGIVE YOU!



THIS CAN'T BE. I MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS!

YOU? HOW DID YOU GET HERE? I DIDN'T SEE YOU COME IN!

THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS YOU DON'T SEE, APPARENTLY!



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'VE RUINED MY LIFE WITH MY PASSION FOR GAMBLING! TIME AND AGAIN MY WIFE AND CHILDREN HAVE GONE WITHOUT FOOD BECAUSE OF MY GAMBLING LOSSES!



BUT THIS IS WORST OF ALL! I STOLE MY PARTNER'S MONEY TO INVEST IN SOMETHING I CONSIDERED A SURE THING. THE MEN WHO SOLD ME THE STOCK TURNED OUT TO BE SWINDLERS.. THEY MADE THEIR GET-AWAY ON THE TRAIN WHEN YOU SAW ME!



THIS TIME I'LL GO TO PRISON!
HMM! MAYBE YOU WON'T!
LET ME HAVE THOSE FAKE STOCKS, GEORGE!

IF I GET YOU OUT OF THIS JAM WILL YOU PROMISE NEVER TO GAMBLE AGAIN?
I PROMISE YOU - A THOUSAND TIMES OVER!

KARDAK PROCEEDS TOWARD AN AIRPORT ---
I CAN HEAD THOSE CROOKS OFF BY PLANE!

AT THE NEXT TOWN A PAIR OF FIGURES MAKE THEIR WAY FURTIVELY AWAY FROM THE STATION --

WELL, WELL, LOOKS LIKE MY BIRDS ARE GOING TO ROOST FOR A WHILE!

OKAY HOOK, NOW WE SPLIT THE SWAG!

HAW, HAW, I CAN'T FORGET HOW THAT CHUMP LOOKED CHASIN' AFTER OUR TRAIN! WELL THERE'S A SUCKER BORN EVERY MINUTE!

LOOK, HOOK! THE DOOR! IT'S OPENING!
AS THE CROOKS MAKE THEIR WAY CAUTIOUSLY TO THE DOOR, A HAND APPEARS OUT OF SEEMINGLY THIN AIR AND ---



NO ONE HERE! MUSTA BEEN THE WIND!

WHAT TH- SOME OF THE DOUGH IS GONE!



TRYIN' TO PULL A FAST ONE, EH! HAND OVER THAT DOUGH!

I DIDN'T TAKE IT, I TELL YA!



SURE NOT...IT JUST DIS-APPEARED INTO THIN AIR! COME ACROSS, I WARN YOU!

AWWRK!



GET TOUGH WITH ME, HUH? I'LL SHOW YA !!

YOU CHISELING DOUBLE-CROSSER! I'LL POUND YOU TO A PULP!



WHAT'S ALL THE RUMPUS UP HERE? THE WHOLE HOTEL IS COMPLAINING!

CRIPES! IT'S THE HOTEL DETECTIVE... AND A COP!



I'LL BE... IF IT ISN'T HOOK BERGER AND SLICK KEAN, THE NOTORIOUS CONFIDENCE MEN. WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

YOU AIN'T GOT A THING ON US!

OH, NO? WHADDA YA CALL THIS? UP TO YOUR OLD TRICKS, EH? PEDDLING PHONEY STOCKS, HUH?

HOLY COW! HOW'D THOSE THINGS GET THERE? WHERE'S OUR DOUGH?

OWAAH!
WHERE YOU'RE GOIN' YOU WON'T NEED DOUGH FOR A LONG TIME!



OKAY, YOU GOT US. .BUT I STILL CANT UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR DOUGH-AND HOW THOSE STOCKS GOT THERE!

WHILE AT THAT MOMENT OUTSIDE THE HOTEL A BLURRY MIST TAKES FORM: KARDAK!

WELL, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. THOSE CROOKS ARE WHERE THEY BELONG AND THIS MONEY GOES BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!



LET'S LOOK IN ON GEORGE IN THE MEANTIME

(GULP) M-MY MONEY IS ALL HERE. I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT !!!

Merry Xmas- and don't forget your promise! Kardak

BOY, TO SEE THAT MUCH CHRISTMAS CHEER ON THEIR FACES ALMOST REALLY MAKES ME FEEL LIKE SANTA CLAUS!



THANKS TO JIMMY MITCHELL OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO FOR THIS STORY. KEEP SENDING IN CHARACTER S YOU WANT KARDAK TO REFORM, GANG! 160 W B'WAY, NYC RM. 315

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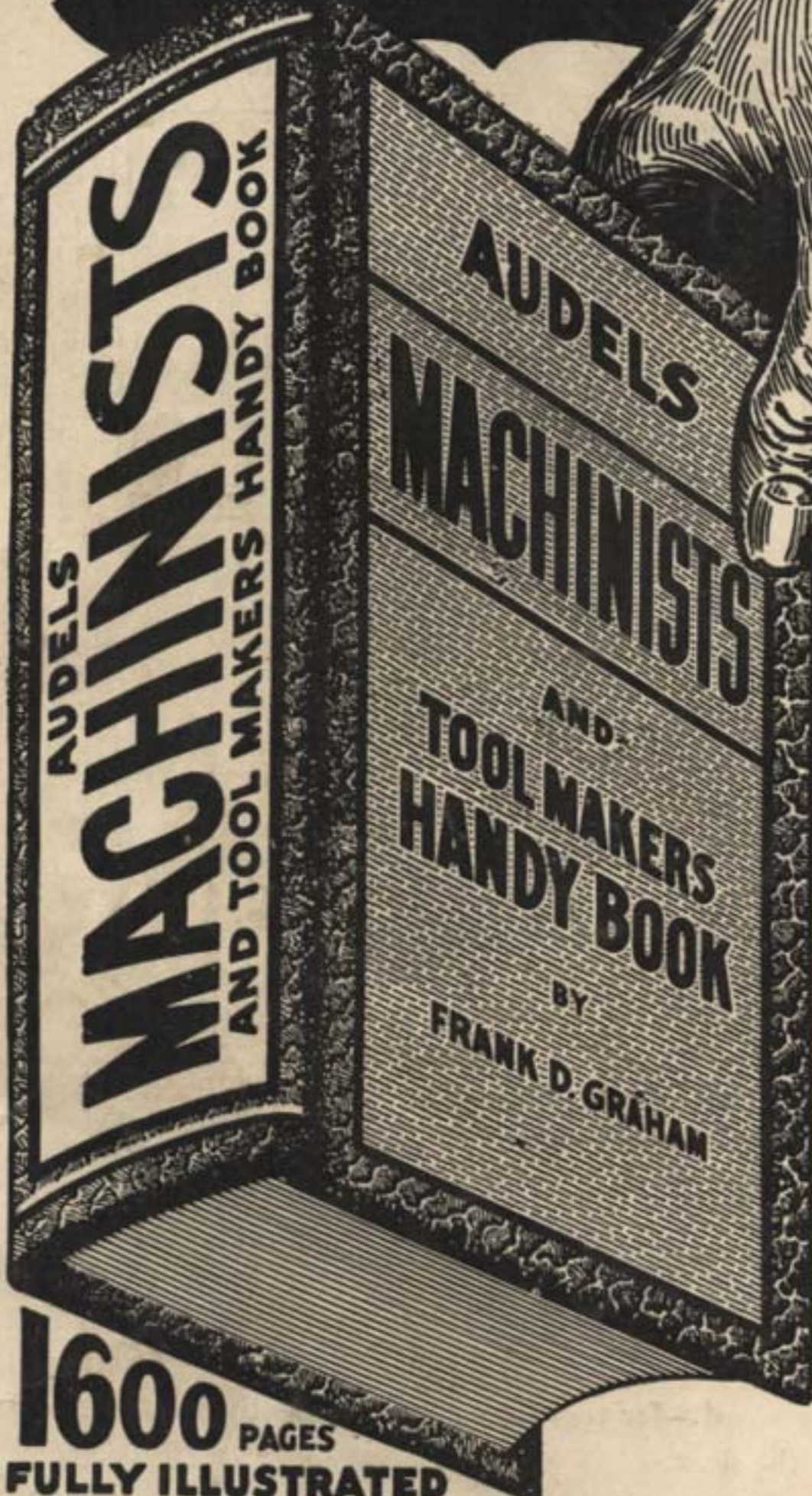
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